

Anarchy 50p



HEALTH WORKERS',
PRISON DRUGGING



EDITORIAL

A BIT OF HISTORY: After the copy for A29 was done, ANARCHY folded. A year later (Winter '79), after the LONDON WEEKLY paper packed-up (having put out one issue!), a few people decided to start ANARCHY again, including two from the 'old' collective. A29 was printed and put out...it was the worst issue ever. The collective then endured a succession of people leaving and joining, whilst managing to publish A30, 31, and 32. Charlotte packed-in ANARCHY in November 1981, so now none of the 'old' collective was left. Those that remained brought out two issues (A33 & 34). But by A34 (October '82) the reduced collective faced insurmountable problems (including the defection of two members to the Bhuddists of Bethnal Green...) and decided to give-up-the-ghost (if not the Guru!).

However, as one collective was falling apart a 'new' one was being formed to ensure that ANARCHY continued to be published. The present ANARCHY COLLECTIVE includes a founding-member of the original 'old' collective (2nd Series) tempted out of retirement and a former member of the BLACK FLAG GROUP, as well as comrades new to the field of Anarchist publishing. With the change-over from one collective to another also comes a change in editorial policy.

A BIT OF POLICY: Our aim is not the struggle for anarchism as an abstract ideal but a revolutionary struggle with the most Libertarian character possible. With this in mind we seek positively to put forward Anarchy and to help, however modestly, to foment revolutionary activism in all its forms by arousing the opinion of our readers to the struggles of peoples, minorities, and individuals victimised by State repression. We are moving away from the old policy of devoting a whole issue to one subject, and are introducing a regular news section into the magazine. But it is not our intention to become another newspaper in competition with any of the existing ones (though the more the merrier!). Our main emphasis will be on publishing articles of contemporary relevance expressing (and we hope occasionally re-examining) the Anarchist ideal in as practical way as possible. We still welcome articles, news, and letters from our readers. We don't have to agree with you to publish what you send us, only think what you have to say has something of interest and value in it. As a general rule-of-thumb, we are not seeking to cover the spectrum of 'personal politics', except where we get an article which adds something significantly new and positive to the subject. Articles will be judged not on whether we agree with them, but on the extent to which they are likely to stimulate thought and action.

-The Anarchy Collective-

ANARCHY

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HOME NEWS...



'WHITE AGITATORS'

Squatters in eight houses in Railton Road were evicted on 1st November by the Under Sheriff of Greater London backed up by one of the new police 'Immediate Response Units' (IRU). Three of the houses (one of which was being used as a community centre, though the police claimed in justification for the evictions that it was merely a cover for illegal drinking, gambling, and dope smoking) were partially demolished so as to make them uninhabitable.

The evictions themselves went by unresisted, but from the afternoon onwards resentment spread in the area. Black youths put up two barricades across Railton Road which the police removed without opposition. Later, about 300 people who had gathered nearby were dispersed with a couple of skirmishes. By mid-evening 200 people gathered by Lambeth Town Hall on Brixton High Street to protest at the evictions earlier in the day. The police IRU in full

riot gear moved in again and cleared stretches of Railton Rd. Two small fires were started on a building site, and shop and car windows were smashed, but the resistance to the new tactics of the police (moving in quickly to clear the streets line abreast) was desultory. Five people were arrested.

Chief Superintendent Robert Marsh, chief of police in Brixton, later told a press conference that three or four "white agitators" wearing masks (one of them a woman - shock!) were to blame for the rioting:

"The mood of the people did not change until they were encouraged, not by black people, but by some white anarchists from the area. They are not outsiders, as they have cells in Brixton. They are agitators". (GUARDIAN 3/11/82)

Marsh failed to see the humour of his words... as it is well known that there are always CELLS available for any anarchists the cops can

get their hands on in Brixton: up the road in the Jebb Avenue remand prison!

WAKEFIELD BOMBING: STILL ANGRY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

A bomb explosion outside the prison officers' training college in Wakefield on 13th November has prompted press speculation about "a new gang of revolutionaries" calling themselves the "Angry Brigade". The explosion, in the early hours of the morning, blew a hole in a ten-foot high chain-link fence which separates the Aberford Road Prison Services College from a field, and shattered seven windows in the college which was closed for the weekend. No-one was injured.

Sixteen hours after the attack, a woman phoned the YORKSHIRE POST in Leeds saying that a bomb had been placed at the rear of the college and that the "Angry Brigade" were responsible. The caller said that the bomb had been positioned to damage property and not to injure people.

A few days later, FREEDOM received and published (with out comment) a communique from "Angry Brigades Resistance Movement" claiming the action. This is the text:

To: Prison Officers Training Centre, Wakefield

"We have decided to blow up your prison officers training centre. As the situation we face becomes more desperate, people have to take more desperate measures in order to survive. Your response is to lock us up. Your

HOME NEWS...

prisons are packed more than ever before. The only industry that is booming is the repression industry, and we don't like it.

"How many thousands of us are rotting in your prisons simply for trying to survive?

"We are not unreasonable people, but we have been pushed to far - we have nothing left to lose. We will not sit by while you practise your torture and murder (remember Barry Prosser?).

"No doubt you will suppress the truth of this attack, as you have with previous actions, but that will not deter us.



"we don't like you; and we don't like the state you are a part of; we don't like the governments you serve.

"Look over your shoulders pigs, WE ARE EVERYWHERE. WE WILL DEFEND OURSELVES."

"ANGRY BRIGADES
RESISTANCE MOVEMENT."

In the two weeks after the Wakefield bombing, police raided addresses in Hull, Huddersfield, and Leeds. A number of people were taken in for questioning, but all were later released without being charged. Letters, address books, pamphlets, and files were seized by the police in the raids, as is usual on these occasions. Press speculation as to whether the Angry Brigade had been "reformed and reactivated" has been mirrored within the Anarchist movement by a wave of private speculation on the subject.. Whatever the answer is, it is important to remind comrades of the serious consequences of loose gossiping, even "just between me, you, and the gate-post." Gossip, rumour, and innuendo are all sources of information to the police. DO NOT speculate on WHO is doing what, or even who is NOT doing what. Keep criticism constructive if you feel it necessary to criticise. FREEDOM's lack of comment at all on the Wakefield action is surprising, but at least a positive improvement on their past denunciations of the original Angry Brigade, and periodic attacks on acts of resistance since then. The action in Wakefield is clearly an act of resistance and should be discussed in that context, not personalised.

(See: "Reflections on The Economy of Political Violence", in this issue.)



LEEDS: ATTACK ON TORY HQ

An incendiary bomb was found at the Yorkshire & Humberside Conservative Central Office in Leeds on 20th January, hours before Prime Minister Thatcher was due to arrive in the city, after a woman telephoned a warning to a Manchester Newspaper from the "Angry Brigade". The caller said the bomb had been timed to explode at 3am and was intended to damage property and not injure people. Police sealed-off the area near the Tory HQ whilst an Army bomb-disposal squad exploded the bomb in the back yard. The bomb, a ten-inch long package, had been pushed through the office's letter box. The GUARDIAN (22/1/83) reporting the incident, revealed that the AB had also carried out an attack on a DHSS office in Manchester last September.



HOME NEWS...

SWANSEA BOMBING

The Workers Army of the Welsh Republic (WAWR - the initials spell the Welsh word for dawn) claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on Government offices in Swansea just before midnight on 16th November. A man claiming to represent WAWR telephoned a warning at 11.30pm and police cleared the area before the bomb exploded behind a Government office block in the High St. which houses the Inland Revenue and vehicle licensing offices. Twenty windows on three floors of the six-storey block were broken but no-one was injured. The bombing came the day after seven men and a woman appeared at committal proceedings in Cardiff magistrates court on charges including conspiracy to cause criminal damage and explosives offences.

POST EARLY FOR XMAS...

In a written statement, postmarked Glasgow and dated 19th November, the Scottish National Liberation Army claimed responsibility for 10 bomb incidents in London and Edinburgh over an eight month period. At the bottom of the letter, the SNLA stated: "SNLA will avenge the workers of Cragneuk" (A reference to the partial closure of the steelworks at Motherwell). On 23rd Nov. an incendiary bomb, sent to the Industry Secretary Patrick Jenkin, was intercepted carrying the same postmark and date.

The SNLA statement claimed responsibility for bomb scares in Edinburgh on 1st March; three letter bombs sent to Defence Secretary

John Nott on 17th March; and two sent to SDP offices in Scotland during the Glasgow Hillhead by-election. They also claimed that an incendiary bomb placed in the Scottish Assembly in Edinburgh on 24th May had gone virtually unreported, and that this was also the case with letter bombs sent to the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 29th July and two Conservative Party offices in Edinburgh and London on 19th June and 10th August.

On 30th November a letter bomb addressed to Margaret Thatcher exploded inside No 10 Downing Street, slightly injuring her office manager, Peter Taylor, who was opening the package. This bomb was reported as containing a charred envelope claiming responsibility for the Animal Rights Militia. Four other letter bombs of the same type were intercepted in the House of Commons addressed to the three leaders of the opposition (Steel, Foot, Jenkins), and the minister responsible for animal legislation, Timothy Raison. The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the "Angry Brigade" also made phone calls claiming the bombs.

BENYON BIFFED!

Tory MP for Buckingham, William Benyon, was beaten unconscious outside his home near Reading, Berkshire, on 27th November. Four "youths" hit him over the head with a wooden club, but the reeling Benyon was not robbed... obviously not the work of muggers. So far the Angry Brigade has not claimed responsibility for this attack, but it goes to show that resistance is within

the capabilities of everyone, whether or not they are the proud possessors of weed killer and sugar.

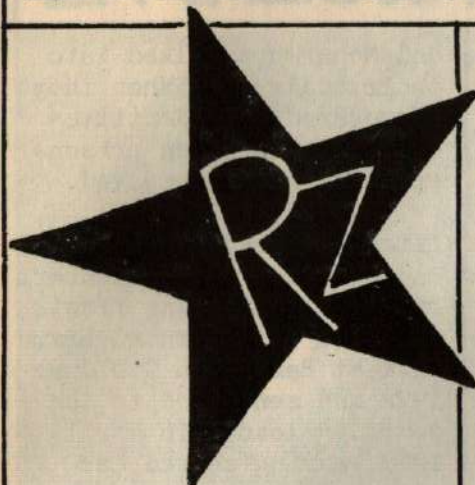
PROSSER'S MURDERER TO OPEN PUB

Melvyn Jackson (35), the screw who led the murderous attack on Barry Prosser in Winson Green Prison (see Anarchy 34) and the only man in Britain ever charged three times with the same murder, has finally left the Prison Service and now plans to open a pub with the 'Golden Handshake' he will get from the Home Office. Jackson has been on paid leave for over two years whilst his solicitors negotiated the terms of his retirement. Two other screws charged with Jackson in Prosser's murder, Eric Smith (33) and Howard Price (26), have both returned to work in the Prison Service, but not at Winson Green, since their acquittals in March last year. Jackson, of Dunley, near Stourport-on-Severn, insisted on returning to Winson Green, and refused to be transferred to Aylesbury gaol, an institution for young offenders in the East Midlands. The Home Office refuse to say what the terms of Jacksons' 'retirement' are, but confirmed that a cash payment would be made.

WAITE: 4 YEARS FOR PROTEST

Michael Waite (25), the prisoner who staged a rooftop demo at Winson Green gaol in September '82 to draw attention to the murder of Barry Prosser, was sentenced to 4 years (on top of Life sentence) at Birmingham Crown Court on 11th January.

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WEST GERMANY:

RZ - BOMBING ON!

Despite the hopeful boasts of press and police, the armed resistance in West Germany which they write-off periodically as 'dead' refuses to lie down...

A bomb exploded under a freight train in Giessen on 29th September while it was on its way to a US military depot. The train was damaged but no-one was injured.

On 1st October two bombs exploded at the offices of nuclear energy administrative installations in Cologne and the suburb of Bensberg, causing slight damage. Both explosions were claimed by the Revolutionary Cells (RZ).

In a further attack, on 17th October, a bomb destroyed four cars owned by US servicemen on the Esher-shein US military housing estate in Frankfurt. Some walls were damaged in the attack, and many windows in the area were shattered. Altogether, damage caused in the explosion was estimated at £32,000.

On 19th October firebombers,

attacked more US vehicles in the Frankfurt area, causing £1,600 in damage. No-one was injured in the attacks, two of which were against the cars of US servicemen, and a third in which a firebomb was thrown into the carpark of a US customs office.

In West Berlin, firebombs badly damaged two banks and destroyed a police dog kennel on 26th October. Damage to one of the banks, at Wilnersdorf, was estimated at £12,000 and police reported "considerable" damage to the other bank attacked, at Nikolassee.

Following this renewed bombing campaign, police in Stuttgart arrested six people (three men and three women aged between 23 and 30) on 27th October during a search of homes in the area.

Then on 31st October another bomb exploded at a US armed forces housing estate at Giessen, wrecking 15 cars and smashing windows. No-one was injured in the attack.

And on 15th November, explosives experts defused a bomb placed in the garage of a 25 storey block of flats in Frankfurt, where most residents are US servicemen.

A US soldier was seriously injured in Butzbach (Frankfurt) on 14th December, when a bomb placed under the seat of his car exploded and set the vehicle alight. It was the 58th attack against American targets in West Germany within a year. Two hours later, a second soldier escaped unhurt when he

found an identical bomb under the drivers seat of his car. A US Army spokesman claimed that the bombs used in the two attacks were like the 11lb. fire extinguisher bomb found in November placed in a car outside a 26th floor apartment building housing US troops.

The West German government has offered a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the bombers.

Two bomb attacks on police buildings in Lower Saxony within 24 hours were carried out on 19/20 December. In the second of the attacks a bomb damaged the police school at Wolfenbuettel, near Brunswick. No-one was injured.

Police arrested more than 50 people and seized a cache of weapons ranging from machine guns to bullet-firing pens in a series of raids in Stuttgart on the 4th January 1983.

AIRPORT RIOT

The opposition to the construction of a new runway at Frankfurt international airport continues. On 1st November some 120 riot police using tear gas and four water cannon fought with protestors for several hours. One cop received head injuries when he was hit by a rock hurled through the windscreen of his car, and the rioters ripped up 120 concrete posts in the wall surrounding the building site and pelted police with stones and fireworks. There were no arrests: "All the police could do was defend them-

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selves; they had no chance to arrest anyone," said a police spokesman to reporters. Eventually, with the help of the gas and water cannon, the police managed to push the rioters back from the runway but it was a 'Dunkirk' victory...

HEISSLER SENTENCED

The trial of Rolf Heissler (34), which has been going on in Duesseldorf since 14th September 1981, finally ended on 10th November 1982 with his being sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, armed robbery, and membership of the RAF. He had been accused of killing two Dutch customs officials in November 1978 and attempting to kill two more after he and a woman companion were stopped in a car on the Dutch/German border near Aachen. The two occupants in the car opened up on the customs men with two pistols and a submachine gun before driving off back into Holland and getting away. Heissler, who was previously convicted for armed robbery in 1972 and was serving eight years when he was amongst the prisoners released in exchange for the kidnapped CDU politician Peter Lorenz in March 1975, was finally arrested after police fed all the electric bills paid by cash into a computer and compared the names and known details of 'terrorist' suspects with those who had paid their bills so promptly (only terrorists pay by cash it seems!).

RAF ARRESTS

Three of the "most wanted" people on Germany's list of

Red Army Fraction suspects - Brigitte Mohnhaupt, Aldelheid Schulz, and Christian Klar - were arrested in November during a big police operation following the discovery of a series of arms dumps belonging to the RAF.

Mohnhaupt and Schulz were both arrested on 12th November as they approached a RAF arms dump in a wood outside Frankfurt. The dump had been under police observation for three weeks following its discovery by "mushroom pickers". Both women are said to have been armed with pistols, but did not shoot, and to have been carrying nine forged passports between them (including British and Swiss). The dump (a large plastic box buried in the ground) contained stolen money, forged passports, grenades, explosives, firearms (some of which are said to have been used in three RAF attacks), ammunition, an RPG7 rocket launcher (said to have been used in the rocket attack on General Kroesen in September 1981), falsified military passes to US and German Army bases, car registration papers, and internal RAF documents, including coded maps identifying the locations of other RAF arms and money caches.

The police operation resulting in the capture of Schulz and Mohnhaupt involved the notorious GSG9 anti-terrorist unit, local 'Mobilen EinsatzKommandos' (MEK), and police from three West German states. In fact, the police were becoming convinced that their long wait was going to be in vain when Schulz

and Mohnhaupt walked into their stake-out. When they discovered the identities of their two women prisoners they were overjoyed.

Brigitte Mohnhaupt (33) was one of the original members of the RAF. She was first arrested with Bernard Braun in West Berlin on 9th June 1972 and sentenced to ten years. Released in April 1977, having served her sentence with remission, she immediately went underground again. When a battery of rockets was discovered set-up ready to be fired at the office of the Federal Prosecutor in Karlsruhe in August 1977 from a hotel bedroom window Brigitte was named as a prime suspect. Dutch police claim she was with Knut Folkerts during a shoot-out with police in Utrecht in September 1977 in which one policeman was killed. Folkerts was arrested and later extradicted to West Germany (where he was lifed-off for involvement in the execution of Prosecutor Buback) but the woman with him escaped. She is also said to have been involved in the killing of banker Hans-Jurgon Ponto (30/7/77), the abduction and execution of top industrialist Hans-Martin Schleyer (5/9/77), and the rocket attack on General Kroesen (15/9/81). The Yugoslav authorities arrested Brigitte (along with Rolf-Clemens Wagner, Sieglinda Hoffman, and Peter Boock...this last named rat having since turned informer for the German police) on 29th May 1978 in an attempt to pressurise the West German Government to hand over a number of Croat Nationalist activists living in Germany who were

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Brigitte Mohnhaupt.

wanted for acts of terrorism inside Yugoslavia. The four RAF members were finally released by the Yugoslavian authorities on 17th November 1978, after the negotiations for the exchange fell through. According to the grass Boock, they then flew to South Yemen, and from there travelled back to Europe. Police in Germany now claim that Brigitte Mohnhaupt took over as 'leader' of the RAF after Andreas Baader was 'suicided' in October 1977.

Aldelheid Schulz (27), a former nurse, is said by the police to be 'quarter-master' for the RAF; and together with Mohnhaupt and Christian Klar, to have written the last RAF Strategy Paper (published in Germany in May '82). She is wanted for involvement in the attacks on Buback (7/4/77), Ponto, and Schleyer. In August 1978, Aldelheid was filmed by the BKA (Special Branch) with Klar and the late Willi-Peter Stoll (later shot dead in a Dusseldorf restaurant by members of the BKA on 7



Aldelheid Schultz.

September 1978) disguised as a TV camera team, making helicopter flights over Rhine/Manheim/Heidelberg. The three managed to shake-off the BKA surveillance after a car chase south of Frankfurt, causing a political storm within the West German establishment. She and Klar repeated this performance again in August 1980 when they gave the BvF (Security Service) the slip after being under observation for several weeks in the Hamburg area.

Using the documents found in the Frankfurt arms dump, BKA code-breakers were able to find and stake-out all the other caches marked on the coded maps.

On 16 November they struck lucky again. Two men in track suits arrived on bicycles at another RAF arms cache (code name 'Daphne' in the documents captured earlier) in the Sachsenwald wood near Hamburg. As one of the pair knelt down with a trowl to dig up the cache he was surrounded by armed members of the BKA and arrested. The second man with



Christian Klar.

him managed to escape. Police combed the woods using helicopters with searchlights, but failed to find him. The arrested man was Christian Klar. Police say he was armed with a Colt Commander .45 pistol, and was carrying false ID papers. The cache is said to have contained two revolvers, 250 rounds of ammunition, a submachine gun, "forgery tools", and 11,000DM (£3,000).

Christian Klar (30) is the "most wanted" of the wanted guerrillas in West Germany. Police say he began his career in the underground in October 1976 with a bank robbery in Vienna. In January 1977 he is supposed to have been involved in a shoot-out on the German/Swiss border in which a Swiss border guard was shot. With Knut Folkerts and Guenther Sonnenberg, Christian was named as participating in the execution of Buback, and is also wanted for the Schleyer kidnapping; numerous bank robberies, including a 100,000DM bank robbery in Bochum (15/9/77); a shoot-out with police on

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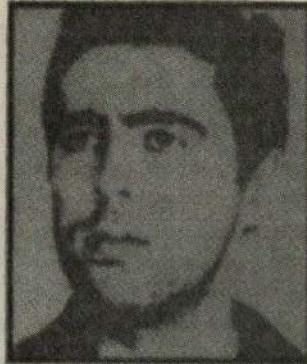
24 September 1978 in which Angelika Speital and Michael Knoll were arrested (Knoll later died of his wounds - Klar, if it was he, managed to escape, taking a police submachine gun with him!); the bomb attack in Belgium (25/6/79) on General Alexander Haig; Kroesen rocket attack; and the bomb attack against the US military base at Ramstein on 31 August 1981. Altogether he faces 25 pages of charges!

So seriously did the German authorities fear that the RAF might mount a rescue attempt to free Klar that he was taken to an undisclosed location for safe-keeping after his arrest until his trial. The arrests of Klar, Mohnhaupt, and Schulz were inevitably followed in Germany by a large press campaign sensationalising their capture. By 24 November, police in West Germany had unearthed 15 RAF arms dumps. Deputy Interior Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger was reported as saying the investigation: "...shows that the terrorists remain highly dangerous and they were planning new attacks on American facilities and on leading (West German) politicians." According to this press campaign the RAF is now being led by Inge Viett (ex-2nd June Movement) and Werner Lotze, and to number about 20 people.



SPAIN:

GRAPO LEADER KILLED



Juan Martin Luna (28), leader of the Maoist guerrilla group GRAPO, was shot dead in a gun battle with a police Anti-Terrorist Squad in Barcelona on 5th December. Martin Luna was trapped in a bakers shop after being followed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad for several days. He fought back with a 9mm pistol but was hit by several police bullets. Martin Luna had been on the run since December 1979, when he tunneled out of prison with four other GRAPO members. He had been convicted in 1977 for the execution of an Army Captain and sentenced to 37 years.

EUZKADI:

US COMPANIES BLITZED

Bombs exploded outside a branch of the Bank of America, a US car hire firm, and the offices of the Ford Motor Company, in Bilbao on 22nd December. No-one was injured in the attacks.

IRELAND:

WOMEN BEHIND THE DOOR

Two women prisoners in Limerick Gaol, Marion Coyle

and Marie Murray, have not been outside for exercise for two months.

When male prisoners were moved from Portlaoise to Limerick some months ago, the womens exercise yard was divided to provide more room for Limerick's male prisoners.

The women were left with a wire-enclosed tunnel for their exercise area and have refused to use it as it is restrictive and depressing.

Both women are serving long sentences which makes the lack of outside exercise even more unbearable.

Marian Coyle's father, who visited his daughter in January says that she looks pale and ill and seems to be under great stress.

(Source AP/RN -13/1/83)

ITALY:

RED BRIGADES ARRESTS

The Italian guerrilla movement has suffered severe losses during the past year. 450 guerrilla suspects have been arrested since the kidnapping of NATO General Dozier in January 1982. Over 1,500 left wing guerillas are now in gaol in Italy and 250 more are still wanted by police.

Ten people were arrested in Naples on 3rd October 1982, including Vittorio Bolognesi (32). Police claim Bolognesi is the leader of the Red Brigades column in Naples, and he is wanted for several political killings, including the execution of the head of the Naples police 'flying squad' in July '82. Arms and documents were also

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seized in the arrests by anti-terrorist police.

Seventeen suspected guerrillas were lifted in a series of raids in Milan and Turin on 14th November 1982. One man "fell" to his death from a seventh floor window when police burst in to an apartment in a Milan block of flats and arrested three other people. Arms, ammunition, documents, and electronic equipment were also seized. It is claimed that the people arrested were planning attacks at NATO installations.

CCU TRIAL

Thirty-one members of the Communist Combatant Units received gaol terms from 3 to 30 years in Rome on 23rd November. Five members of the organisation who betrayed their comrades and turned informers got terms ranging from 16 to 25 years which will give the rats plenty of time to reflect on the virtues of grassing!

Six more Red Brigades suspects, including two women and a Lebanese student, were lifted in Turin on 16th November 1982. In Rome the next day, Alessandro Padula (28) was captured by anti-terrorist police. Padula was wanted for involvement in the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, 13 killings, six woundings, bank robbery and assault. And six alleged members of the BR's "Walter Alasia Column" were arrested in raids in Milan over Xmas.

MORO TRIAL: 32 LIFED-OFF

The trial in Rome of the kidnapers of former Premier Aldo Moro finally ended

on 24th January after nine months, with 32 members of the Red Brigades receiving life sentences for participation in the operation and for other guerrilla actions. Sixty three defendants had been on trial (46 in detention, 13 on provisional liberty, and 4 in their absence) facing 200 charges, including 17 political executions, 11 attempted executions, and four kidnappings, carried out by the Red Brigades during 1977-80. Four of the defendants were acquitted. The rest were found guilty of several offences, as the prosecution had insisted that belonging to the Red Brigades made them an accomplice in all the groups actions. Among those lifed-off were Mario Moretti (said to have planned and directed the Moro operation) and Prospero Gallinari (whom the prosecution claimed executed Moro after the Italian Government refused to meet the BR's demands).

Three "Penitent" members of the group received lesser sentences for co-operating with the police: Patrizio Peci got four months; Antonio Savasta and his girl-friend Emilia Libera (both grasses in the Dozier kidnap case) got 16 years each for other offences.

FRANCE:

CHOOZE TO FIGHT

Demonstrators, angry over the siting of a nuclear power station at Chooz in North-Eastern France, battled with police at the end of October. When the cops moved in at dawn on 31st

October to cut a cable strung across the road, they came under fire from demonstrators throwing stones and other missiles. The protestors were driven back with teargas. But after being dispersed some then attacked a Gendamerie post in the town of Vireux, smashing windows and damaging police cars.

BURIED TREASURE

An arms cache that included an RPG7 rocket launcher was discovered near Toulouse on 22nd November. According to French television, a hunting party found the cache buried in a field. There were guns and ammunition, the RPG7, a list of banks, and a list of foreign military attaches based in France.

An unknown number of people were arrested in Toulouse on 14th December, after police found a cache of 220lbs of explosives. France Inter Radio said those arrested were suspected be part of an Anarchist or extreme-left group in the region.

LOOK AFTER YOUR CACHE
BUT SEND US YOUR
CASH - SUBSCRIBE
TO "ANARCHY"!



REFLECTIONS ON THE ECONOMY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Too often in the past our attitudes to acts of resistance (such as the bombing of the Screws' training college in Wakefield in November) have been reduced simply to the level of being for or against "violence". It would be stupid to say we are for violence - if we raise a black flag we are not to blame if others misunderstand its meaning - but if we accept the reality of resistance, then we must be prepared for all that it implies. We should not waste our time arguing about how to fight our enemies, but try to put those critical energies into devising how best to improve the effectiveness of that fight, whatever form it assumes. For it is not violence or non-violence which is the touchstone of revolutionary action, only whether or not the tools we choose do the job. The decision to use political violence is not dependant upon individual whims or personality traits, but on the prevailing circumstances within society. The amount (and violence) of resistance is in direct correspondence to the amount of repression which exists.

Resistance is not about making symbolic gestures, it is about defending yourself from attack. The amount of force and the degree of violence necessary to do this varies according to how big the threat, how great the level of repression. So before you can know how much force to use against something you have to be sure exactly what it is you are trying to achieve. You must have a clear reason for acting. What is it you are trying to do, and what response are you trying to provoke by your actions?

The bombing in Wakefield blew a hole in a chain-link fence and broke seven windows. In their communique afterwards the group responsible wrote: "We have decided to blow up your prison officers training centre." If that was their aim, then seven broken windows and a hole in the fence falls a bit short. But this is only a technical criticism. Better an attempt that falls short of total victory, than inactivity which accepts total defeat. If the aim had been to break windows, two people with bricks could have done more damage, and preserved the scarce resource of explosives for use more effectively in the future. The tools of resistance have to be tailored to the job they are to perform. To destroy the building it would have been easier, and more cost effective, simply to burn it down with petrol poured inside and set alight. But people only learn how to resist effectively by trying,

and learning from their mistakes. Every effective guerrilla force starts from nothing and learns its trade as it goes along. The point here is that in everything we do, we should always try to achieve the maximum effect with the least cost.

The action hit the headlines in most of the national papers for two main reasons: the means employed (a bomb), and the name used by the people who claimed it ("Angry Brigades Resistance Movement"). It was this spectacular recipe which made the action newsworthy, more than the effectiveness of the action itself. This underlines a curious phenomenon. A few ounces of explosive and a familiar name stand more chance of being noticed by the press - irrespective of how many people

By
Jack McArdle



they represent - than a far greater number of disorganised people performing less spectacular(though not necessarily less effective) acts of resistance(like not paying their rent). What matters, however, is not how many people are involved in a campaign but how much they are attuned to what is going on. If they are in harmony, then such spectacular violence can express and compliment the actions and ideas of others and be part of the whole. The test is not how many do an action, but how does it fit into a general offensive? The accusations of "individualist" or "elitist", frequently leveled against the use of organised political violence, by people not prepared to use it themselves, just are not serious objections.

The use of violence is not obligatory for those who seek to resist oppression, but neither can it be excluded: pacifism is the contraceptive of revolutionary action. Not everyone has the same resources or opportunities. Resistance, to be effective, does not demand that everyone become urban guerrillas, only that each does as much as they can, as efficiently as they can. The choice of operating on one side of the law or the other needs only to be understood on a tactical level. "Illegality is nothing extraordinary. It can happen to anyone, like stepping in dog-shit." ("Berlin Indomitables" of the 2nd June Movement, Oct '78). Every effective form of resistance has to accept the likelihood of spilling over into illegality at some point. It should never be a barrier to action.

The forms of resistance will change in accordance with each persons' possibilities. The argument is not about which strategy to use. The effectiveness of resistance will increase in proportion to the sum total of all the strategies and tactics we employ. Our aim is only to press home the general line of attack with greater economy of effort and resources. The "Guerrilla" is a method of fighting back from a position of relative weakness against a stronger enemy force; it is not a blueprint for a single form. Spontaneous riots, and organised acts of "armed struggle", both have their part to play. Guerrilla method is about utilising all the available possibilities and resources so as to turn weakness into strength. Better to perform an unspectacular action which achieves what it sets out to, than to wait - hoping to amass the resources for something more spectacular which never gets off the ground - and so remain inactive. It means using your resources economically in order to achieve a specific reaction. It is a curious fact that in confrontations with the police, whenever we are weak in numbers and they are there in strength, there is usually someone eager to throw themselves against the solid blue wall and get nicked in a useless gesture of defiance. When the balance of forces is reversed in our favour, and we are faced with a solitary copper, instead of kicking the filth to pieces in safety we are more likely to stand around swapping jokes! The central tenet of guerrilla thinking - hit the enemy where he is weakest and you are strongest - is constantly ignored.

The point at which creativity flags and

moves are repeated, is the point at which the opposition learns the rules of the game and is able to use his superior strength and resources to destroy the resistance. In strategic terms, the Guerrilla sacrifices SPACE to gain TIME, and uses TIME to produce WILL (the will to resist amongst still greater numbers of people). With this theory, you succeed as long as you survive. Either the opposition destroys you or he continues to lose. So hit below the belt and run to safety - never present a target.

Means and ends are interdependent. Moral judgements cannot be suspended; but as the war hots up they become more relative. This is an unpleasant fact which cannot be avoided. Desperate situations call for desperate measures, which people wouldn't otherwise contemplate. The development of expertise and ruthlessness go hand-in-hand with the intensification of the struggle. In West Germany this has led inevitably from symbolic actions ("exploding bombs in the heads of the masses" -RAF) to direct attacks upon the machinery of State repression and US Imperialism, personified in individuals like Buback, Ponto, Schleyer, Haig, Kroesen... Battlefields tend to have a logic of their own which defies all the best laid plans of arm-chair generals. So any plan of campaign has to be sufficiently flexible to allow for defeats, set-backs, and sharp changes in tactics. The 2nd June Movement were forced to revise their original strategy (of keeping one foot in the underground, and the other foot in legal political and community groups, so as to be more responsive than the RAF to the pace of the class struggle in Germany) and fell back into the position of 'professional' guerrillas (like the RAF) precisely because of the ferocity of the police reaction against them. Being forced back on the defensive in this way - into actions outside the strategy of attack - is a serious problem. Not surprisingly, those not arrested eventually merged with the RAF organisation in order to carry on the fight. Practical considerations overrode ideological ones (the RAF is Marxist-Leninist, 2nd June Movement was a mixed group of anarchist and libertarian socialists). The emergence of the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) as an active force in Germany can be seen as an attempt to take-up where 2nd June Movement left-off.

The implied 'pacifist' violence of the Angry Brigade (and more so, the ALF, which

burns down buildings in defence of animals, but is likely to denounce as "violent" the same thing done on behalf of humans...) - attacking property not people - is a curious and dangerous delusion. Bombs (especially high-explosive) are very indiscriminate weapons. To expect to conduct a bombing campaign against 'property' and not injure people (even accidentally) is naive and irresponsible. This is not to condemn resistance, but to call for it to be used more responsibly and specifically. Why is there this aversion to using political violence against people who deserve it, in a proper and discriminating way? To shoot an odious and reactionary individual appears "violent". Blowing up a symbolic building in an attempt to resist oppression without hurting anyone, may perversely result in still greater deaths and injuries amongst totally innocent people. Better to take violence to where it belongs! The Wakefield bombing made a valid point; but it had less effect as a protest against "the repression industry" than if the individuals responsible for "torture and murder" had actually been called to account themselves. Symbolic gestures can only influence those whom we hope to win over to our side; they are wasted on our enemies (whose repression is unfortunately not symbolic).

Political violence is simply the continuation of politics by violent means. Its necessity or irrelevance can never be a total argument. As a tactic it has goals and limitations the same as any other tactic. Force - the use or threat of violence as a means of affecting the distribution of power - is what politics rest on. The Governments' victories over the miners, the railway workers, and the health workers - won against a background of deliberate mass unemployment, poverty, and repression at home; and an increasingly savage Imperialism imposed in Ireland - are acts of political warfare. And all acts of warfare must expect to be met by acts of resistance. If people are once again turning their anger into action it is because the institutionalised violence of the State heeds only one language. What is surprising is not that there is violent resistance, but that there is so little of it. What is important from our point of view is that we try to answer the questions it raises as constructively as we can, and make sure that the lessons learned are put to good use.

Jack McArdle

CROSSWORD STRIKE

Management & Unions Against The Workers

At the end of September 1982 the Platers of Scott Lithgow's Kingston/Glen shipyards in Port Glasgow went on strike in defence of two of their shop stewards - Pat Clark, who had been sacked and John Gillishan, who was suspended for four weeks, for looking at the FINANCIAL TIMES crossword whilst electricians carried out repairs on the welding transformer they were using.

An appeal led by the Boilermakers' District Delegate was heard by one of the company's directors on 21st Sept. but dismissed out of hand. The District Delegate was as convinced as anyone (though he later denied this) that victimisation had taken place. This was highlighted by the management sending police into the yard canteen to remove Pat Clark - but not Gillishan - from a union meeting to which Clark and Gillishan had been invited to put their case to their workmates. Something unprecedented in the past and ominous for the future. The Platers left the yard and conducted their meeting across from the main gate, passing an overwhelming vote for strike action in support of the two stewards.

The first leaflet of the Strike Committee was condemned by the Shop Stewards' Committee as containing half truths and lies. After the Strike Committee had mooted the idea of a press conference one convenor told us, "Cameron Parker (managing director) won't have to sink the boot in on you, we'll fucking sink the boot in on you". They also told us they had arranged a meeting between the Platers and an executive of the Boilermakers' society and someone from British Shipbuilders - on condition that the press conference be called off. The press conference took place and a prepared statement read out showing that in this case punishment was geared not to fit the crime - but to fit the face.

During the strike the local fulltime official called a meeting of all 300 striking Platers with a view to returning to work. The feeling of the men was that as long as we stay out we are strong - past experience has shown that a return to work ends in defeat. After a lengthy meeting a vote was taken, and the outcome was to remain

on strike. The reaction of the fulltime official was to phone the national executive in Newcastle to get them to call a meeting where the ballot box would be used

We began to receive support from shipyard workers in other parts of the country - but nothing from the Scott Lithgow group. The Shop Stewards' Committees of the SG Group threw our appeals into the waste paper basket. According to them we were liars and distorters who had brought bad publicity on the yards, and they were not going to call any meetings to discuss the Platers' appeal for help. We received a letter from a group of plumbers with £20 in it. Part of the letter said, "...it's plain to see that the shop stewards, the so-called workers voice is working hand in hand with the company..." We manned every gate one Friday and got a fantastic response financially from the workers. So much for the stewards claim that we had no support within the yard.

Due to the smear campaign against us within the yards from the shop stewards committees, we were forced to issue another leaflet to clarify the facts of the dispute. The stewards were deliberately spreading false rumours about Pat Clark and the strike committee; that outside elements - anarchists and the SWP - were involved in the running of the strike... This was rubbish. The day to day running of the strike was in the hands of an elected committee of 17 Platers and all public statements and leaflets were drafted by them. Also, the Strike Committee was open to any Plater who wished to become part of it. The stewards stated that should the Platers put pickets at the yard gates then they would instruct the workforce to cross the picket lines.

At a shop stewards committee meeting one of the stewards mentioned that the company should do a 'Hunterson' on the Platers. At the oil rig yard at Hunterson, Ayrshire (Oct. '80), the entire workforce were sacked while on strike and the company (Chicago Bridge) re-employed only those it wanted back. They got full backing for this from the Amalgated Society of Boilermakers and the GMU. These unions merged last year.

(Cont'd on P. 25)

LOOKING BACK ON THE HEALTH WORKERS' DISPUTE

By
Count Dracula



In May 1982 the 14 unions of the National Health Service (NHS) - the largest employer in Europe with approximately 1,000,000 employees - submitted a claim for a pay increase of 12% across the board for the Nurses, Ancillary workers -including porters, cleaners, laundry workers etc. - clerical staff, and the technicians working within the NHS.

The membership of the unions involved in the 'dispute' is a little confusing; for example, of the 460,000 nurses, some 190,000 belong to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), a non-TUC affiliated body concerned more with enhancing the Florence Nightingale image of nurses and ensuring that the gap in social/economic status between nurses and ancillary workers remains (or is widened) than with improving pay and conditions of their members. The majority of nurses are members of either the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE) or the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), as are the majority of the 270,000 ancillary workers. The technicians within the NHS tend to have their own staff associations i.e. Society of Radiographers. The other main two unions are the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) and the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) who represent most of the 120,000 clerical staff.

This situation leads to problems in co-ordinating action, particularly as there is a rigid status hierarchy within the NHS and no tradition of independent (not under union control) activity and therefore no opportunity to break the barriers between different groups of workers within the NHS. This is compounded by the fact that a sizeable minority of the lowest paid ancillary workers are part-time women workers with families to look after, therefore, limiting their activity within the workplace and giving them even less opportunity to influence the union bosses than other workers....

At the beginning of the year NUPE delegates at its annual conference voted for an all-out strike, if necessary, in pursuance of the 12% claim, pushed into a militant position by its members (most ancillaries are in NUPE) while at the COHSE annual conference an all-out strike was rejected in favour of selective stoppages (influenced no doubt by the large number of nurses in COHSE who have been conditioned to believe that for them to strike would be immoral).

In July the RCN balloted its members on

the governments offer of 6% for the nurses (5% for the ancillary workers) which was massively rejected (over 2-1 against) against the expectations of both the RCN leadership and the government. As the government relies year after year on the RCN to split NHS workers by accepting what is offered, albeit with feeble complaints, the government were forced to increase the offer to 7% for nurses and 6% for nurses (thus maintaining the differential - a prerequisite for RCN acquiescence) which was again put to the ballot by the RCN with a recommendation for acceptance. On August 26th a further rejection was announced by the RCN with an equally large majority, influenced no doubt, in part, by the expensive propaganda campaign in the newspapers by the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) with totally false claims for the average pay of nurses, (the New Statesman reported that some nurses in Leeds put in claims for back pay based on the figures claimed in the DHSS adverts).

It was important for the government to get an acceptance from the RCN (less than 20% of the workforce) because if the RCN - "the nurses" in the public mind - accepted than the government believed, probably correctly, that 'public sympathy' for any continuance by other workers in the NHS would cease. This 'public sympathy' has been very important in this dispute, certainly as far as the government, union bosses, and media are concerned. To emphasise their responsibility the TUC Health Service Committee, comprised of union apparatchniks from all the TUC affiliated unions involved in the Health Service, drew up a 'code of conduct' for NHS workers struggling for a living wage; this code severely restricted the action that could be taken by workers, with the code being interpreted by local joint Union/Management liaison teams, that is, for example, deciding what is an emergency admission to a hospital. Thus taking the decisions away from the workers on strike (it must be said that in some hospitals groups of workers did try to resist this Union/Management collaboration but Albert Spanswick, General Secretary of COHSE joined the baying of the capitalist press against workers "making medical decisions" by condemning their actions on national TV). The code also restricts the grades of members who can withdraw their labour i.e. technicians who operate and service life support machines etc. This has two effects 1). it means that workers whose absence would have the most immediate effect in the running of a hospital cannot take



action if they wish to avoid disciplining by their unions (even on the occasions when technicians have voted to strike). 2). It means that the burden of continually coming out falls mainly on the workers who would need to stay out for a long time for their action to have any serious effect (cleaners, laundry workers, porters etc.) who are also the lowest paid health service workers and least able to afford the loss of wages.

By the beginning of September it had become apparent to many workers that the union 'leadership' were not approaching the issue at all vigourously. Albert Spanswick had been heckled at a number of rallies and meetings throughout the country, cries of "No Sell-out" greeted his "some strikes do fail" speech at a rally in Sheffield, initially attended by some 3,000 NHS workers but with less than 100 people still there long before the end. To boost the flagging credibility of the union bosses, the TUC called for a 'Day of Action' by all its affiliated unions for 22nd September, its stated aim to demonstrate the support of other workers for the health workers' claim. The 'Day of Action' was declared a success by the TUC with the pits closed, steelworks shut down, most Airports closed for the day or part of the day, and many regional public tran-

sport systems not running; also 100's of 1,000's of workers attended demonstrations and rallies up and down the country. However, most of the groups of workers who took some action on Sept. 22nd were employed by Nationalised Industries with little organised support from workers in private industry, which suggests that the workers in private industry do not identify with the struggle of the health workers. Conversely, other State employees see the attack on the most vulnerable section of the Nationalised sector as an attack on themselves.

The TUC decided to follow one gesture with a series of regional days of action, whereby each of the 14 regional health authorities in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, would have a day of action week by week. With each succeeding regional action, support by both NHS and other workers grew less as people got pissed off with these meaningless and debilitating gestures in a lost cause.

By October the union leaders were frantically attempting to extricate themselves from the dispute as quickly and painlessly as possible. None of the unions were prepared to sanction the necessary action to win the 12% pay claim in case the struggle got out of hand and beyond their control

and also due to their concern that any deaths 'caused' by an all-out strike would harm their careers, not to mention the fact that both NUPE and COHSE would have to pay strike pay to their members in the event of an all-out strike which would bankrupt both unions within a couple of months.

In the beginning of November the COHSE Executive decided to recall their delegate conference for the following month, to reconsider the annual conference's decision not to go on all-out strike. This decision had been forced on the COHSE executive by an increasingly militant section of COHSE members who wanted to go on an all-out strike and were increasingly critical of the union leadership's tactics in the dispute.

The conference recall took place on the 14th December and despite a recommendation by the COHSE executive for an all-out strike this was massively rejected by the conference delegates.

Meanwhile the TUC had called off a planned one day strike by transport workers on November 8th in support of the health workers when the health unions grasped the opportunity offered by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) when it offered to mediate in new talks between the unions and the DHSS; a regional official of NUPE said "we take the view that if the TUC is continuing to talk, then there must be something worth talking about. If these talks are serious, then it is unfair to ask the transport workers to lose money on Monday" (November 8th). This was said on the same day that Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health, once again reiterated that there would be no more money offered to the Health workers. Certainly the Transport Strike would have been badly supported; when it was cancelled dozens of branches of transport unions had already voted to work as normal, particularly in the North West, previously one of the strongest areas of support for the Health workers.

In December the RCN considered and finally accepted the Government's final offer of 7.5% this year, backdated to July and an extra 1% on the already determined 3.5% for the following year, plus a setting up of an independent pay review body for the nurses for future pay awards, (which the government had already said it wouldn't feel bound by any recommendations made by such a body anyway).

Despite the anger of many of the members, the other unions fell over themselves in the rush to accept the lesser deal with minor disputes over whether to accept the two year deal or insist on a one year settlement. The considerations for the union bosses being to counter-balance the anger and frustration of the membership against the likelihood, in a one year settlement, of the next pay round falling in the middle of a General Election campaign (it is considered likely that the government will call for a general election in June or October 1983). The prospect of militant and more experienced NHS workers ignoring union guidelines, closing down hospitals, and refusing to provide emergency cover during, or just before an election campaign appals the union bosses. Desperate for a return of a Labour Government with whom they can once again take their proper place, as they see it, in a managerial partnership in running the economy. Finally, both NUPE and COHSE accepted 6% and 4.5% over two years with NALGO expected to follow suit.



From the start it was obvious that the struggle by NHS workers for a decent pay award would be difficult given the present government's desire to smash the NHS in all but the most basic emergency service and reduce it to a skeleton service for the poorest people in the country and have the major part of health care done by private health insurance schemes as revealed in the 'leaked' cabinet discussion documents. (In reality the documents were deliberately floated to gauge public reaction). Workers had an understandable desire not to harm patients more than was necessary, and it was almost impossible to discrimin-

ate against certain patients as the wealthier sections of society tend to have private medical attention anyway. On their own NHS workers have no industrial muscle and rely on solidarity action by the working class in other industries. For all the problems that do exist for NHS workers in taking on the government for the 12% claim the unions couldn't have found a more effective way to demoralise the workers and wear down their determination to win i.e. a series of one hour or one day stoppages interspersed with weeks of inaction whilst the union leaders constantly reminded the government that they will do everything in their power to prevent their members from going on an all-out strike, so removing the single most effective weapon in the hands of the workers. This 'dispute' was not fought by the union 'leadership' to win, but as a stepping stone in their careers (either political or within the union hierarchy). At every stage they have stifled local activities such as when some ambulance drivers decided not to provide emergency cover, they were instructed to continue doing so by their union.

The TUC code of conduct drawn up by the Health Committee also chaired by Albert Spenswick, is designed to emasculate the workers, preventing them from deciding locally to what degree they should close down hospitals. The workers should have by-passed the union machinery right from the off, discussed tactics between the different grades (nurses, cleaners, maintenance workers etc.) and set up local action groups to co-ordinate action both within the place of work and outside. One of the first actions should have been to close every single private hospital and clinic in Britain with determined picketing and negotiated directly with other service workers in the area (e.g. postal service workers and rubbish collectors) to persuade them not to service private hospitals and clinics which would have had an immediate effect on the ruling class and demonstrated a class consciousness to other workers.

One tactic which had been discussed by both CONSE and RCN nurses in some hospitals was for a mass resignation by all nurses in the NHS, who would then register with nursing agencies (the agencies which employ nurses for private hospitals and clinics and pay much more than the NHS) forcing the Government to hire nurses from the agencies at the better rates of pay. If this could have been organised it would

have certainly resulted in a much greater offer for the nurses but not, unfortunately, for the other grades within the NHS.

However it would have illustrated the disparity between the pay and conditions of workers in the NHS and workers in private medicine, showing what the ruling class considers to be necessary for its own health care compared to what they consider appropriate for the rest of us who cannot afford to pay for good health care.

In the final analysis though, the NHS workers must be prepared to close down hospitals, and all workers, including the nurses, go on an indefinite strike in order to win.

What distinguished the NHS workers pay struggle was the solidarity actions of workers outside the NHS. Even in its limited and finally, demoralised form, it should be remembered that the demonstrations and stoppages in support of the health workers exceeded anything in this country since the miners' strike of 1972. This is probably in no small measure due to the image fostered (by the media, the unions, the government, and the nurses themselves,) of the nurses as not merely workers, but as part of a "caring profession" somehow more 'deserving' than other workers. This was demonstrated when a few token nurses lobbying both the Labour Party and Liberal Party Conferences, received standing ovations as the conference delegates gave way to semi-religious fervour as the 'angels of mercy' descended among them. The idea of the much lower paid (but presumably not as deserving) hospital cleaners receiving the same treatment is laughable.

While it would be too much to expect the union bosses to stress (or even mention) the inevitable conflict of interests between Labour and Management, and stupidity of deserving and less deserving divisions among groups of workers under capitalism, it is an image which the 500,000 non-nursing workers within the NHS should have openly resisted, instead of falling into the trap of expecting to win the struggle on the crest of a wave of public sympathy for the nurses, and tacitly accepting an image fostered and encouraged by the ruling class.

Count Dracula.


Happy-Hatch Antics

MEDICAL ABUSE IN ENGLISH GAOLS

By
Old Lag

THE ECHOES OF THE GARTREE PRISON RIOT OF OCTOBER 1978, IN WHICH PRISONERS REVOLTED AGAINST THE FORCED DRUGGING OF PRISONERS FOR PURPOSES OF CONTROL (SPARKED OFF BY THE WING-SCREWS' HEAVY-HANDED RESPONSE TO CONCERN SHOWN ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF A BLACK PRISONER, MICHAEL BLAKE, BY HIS FRIENDS ON THE WING), CAPTURING AND DESTROYING THREE OF THE FOUR WINGS, CONTINUE TO REVERBERATE THROUGH THE TOP-SECURITY PRISONS IN ENGLAND.

Thanks to the unceasing efforts of Eddie Byrne, an IRA prisoner (referred to in the press as "prisoner X") in bringing details of drug abuse within the prisons to light, both the GUARDIAN of 24th August and the Times of 25th August 1982 gave extensive coverage to the use of psychiatric drugs. More usually the press prefer to give their readers shock-horror exposés of how all those unrepentant armed robbers, muggers, and terrorists are living the life of Riley inside... 'mad axeman in gaol house marijuana party' style pieces are the way drugs and prison are usually linked in Fleet Street headlines. Rarely do the serious issues get aired in a way in which people who have never seen the inside of a prison can understand or relate to. Even when the bare facts about how the prison authorities drug prisoners for no good medical reason (and no reason other than making prisoners who try to stick up for themselves more manageable) do get into print, it is an imaginative 'outsider'



H. M. PRISON GARTREE WARNING

This is an establishment to which the Prison Act 1952 applies - Under the Act it is an offence for any person -

- I. to help an inmate to escape or attempt to escape: the maximum penalty is 5 years imprisonment (section 39 as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1961).
- II. without authority to convey or attempt to convey into this establishment or to an inmate intoxicating liquor or tobacco: the maximum penalty is six months imprisonment or a £20 fine or both (section 40).
- III. without authority to convey or attempt to convey into or out of this establishment or to an inmate any letter or other article or to place it outside this establishment intending it to come into an inmate's possession: the maximum penalty is a £10 fine (section 41).

who can translate those facts into a realistic picture of what they mean in terms of peoples' lives being messed up, and chances of prisoners ever getting out of prison as anything but a vegetable.

In Eddie Byrne's case, he has documented evidence of drug abuse by prison authorities on five separate occasions since February 1977 and presented the evidence to the Secretary of State. He has also presented evidence on four separate occasions where "...politically conscious non-conforming prisoners" have come to the end of their sentences and are all set to be released, only to be "sectioned off" under Section 60 of the Mental Health Act and committed to a mental hospital (usually Rampton or Broadmoor), where by an administrative sleight of hand they find themselves facing indefinite captivity instead of the outside world. It is the old tactic of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, so popular amongst those who's business is to

terrorise: make an example of a few and the rest will get the message. It is more than a coincidence that the last film shown to prisoners in Gartree before the '78 riot was "ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST". The world of the film and the reality of life in Gartree (where the threat of Dr. Peter Smith to send you to Rampton if you didn't take your Largactil like a good boy was known to be no empty threat) were too akin to be funny to those watching (of which I was one). The effect was shattering.

There is normally no way a prisoner threatened with this fate can fight against it. Prison doctors are a law unto themselves, unhampered by any links with the National Health Service and completely protected by the blanket cover of the Official Secrets Act. All that is needed to send a prisoner away for good into the vicious-circle world of a mental hospital (in which the more you get fucked over, the more you resist, and the more you resist, the more drugs, electric shocks, and solitary confinement you are given... fucking you up still more... and so the wheel turns round, stretching your life thinner and thinner, until one day it gives out altogether...) forever is for a prison doctor to sign a bit of paper certifying you insane, and getting another doctor-friend of his to do the same. Prison doctors are not noted for their rational or dispassionate judgements. Most are both extreme eccentrics and extreme conservatives, to whom any hint of opposition from the prisoners under their 'care' is like a whiff of grapeshot. "He abused me calling me a treacherous evil little man, and stated that if I wanted continued medical treatment then I had better refrain from complaining about drug abuse", wrote Eddie Byrne of Dr. Smith after Smith had accosted him in a prison corridor in Gartree on 18th May. When he complained about Smith to the Governor of Gartree he was told that "it would be in my best interest to forget it".

Stevie Thompson, a black Rastafarian prisoner who I had known in Gartree (but who had played no part in the riot), who was exiled to the freezing solitary cells of Durham after the riot, was a marked man when later he was transferred back to Gartree. First Dr. Smith started his usual games with drugs; next, as soon as Steve was about to be released he was packed off by Smith (who had the deserved nickname of Dr Death within Gartree, after being res-

ponsible for at least one 'suicide' and the loss of another prisoners' legs after he had failed to diagnose or treat gangreen in time) to Rampton top security hospital as a "violent schizophrenic". Stevie was by belief and action a peaceful man and had no proven incident of violence on his record. Only after his friends and family outside were able to launch a campaign on his behalf which was taken up by black rights groups and prison reformists was Stevie set free. In that he was lucky and unusual. Most people 'nuttied-off' by the likes of Dr. Smith have no-one who will fight for them outside, and so continue inside; unknown and undefended.

"In the space of thirteen months", Byrne complained in January 1982, "six prisoners due for release were committed to Rampton mental hospital"...from Gartree. This is the prison systems' 'final solution' to the "problem of politically conscious non-conforming prisoners". In April 1982, Byrne had again to petition the Home Office after the addictive drug TUINAL and PARALDEHYDE (a major tranquiliser) were "forcibly administered to a non-English speaking French subject" by Dr. Smith. As statistics these figures are alarming; as human lives being tampered with and destroyed they are horrifying. The publicity surrounding Eddie Byrne's revelations forced the Home Office to take the unprecedented step of admitting that prisoners at Gartree had been forcibly injected with drugs for the purposes of control, and prompted the National Association of Mental Health (MIND) to call for a commission to oversee the use of psychiatric drugs in prison under the Mental Health Amendment Bill going through Parliament in late 1982.

The GUARDIAN reported (24th Aug. '82) Dr. Tony Whitehead, a consultant psychiatrist who has advised prison reform groups in the past, as commenting that the use of Largactil (accepted in the treatment of patients labelled as "schizophrenic") together with the addictive barbiturate Tuinal on top - as Byrne had detailed - was "outrageous". "To give it to a prisoner against his will would be a "rotten thing to do to anybody", he said. Its use would only be justified if a person were already addicted. In addition, a prisoner on both Largactil and Tuinal would constantly be "extremely sleepy".

Eddie Byrne described how his attention had first been sparked to the subject of psychiatric drugs (after he and five other

IRA prisoners were savagely beaten and hospitalised by Screws in Albany prison in February 1977 during a peaceful protest about conditions there) in the October '82 issue of FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!: "At that time I was assaulted by prison staff in HM Prison Albany, which resulted in my suffering a dislocated shoulder, subsequently I was removed to Parkhurst prison hospital. Immediately on arriving at Parkhurst I was stripped of my clothes and forcibly administered an unknown drug. A short time later I developed a state of convulsions and passed into unconsciousness onto the cell floor. When I regained consciousness I found myself strapped to a prison bed - staff informed me that this was for my own safety. Later I slept for 72 hours, when the drug effect finally wore off".

The bare details of an incident like this related so calmly just cannot convey the absolute enormity of the terror and helplessness to the person it actually happens to. No-one can comprehend the mixture of frustration, helplessness, anger, fear, and total illogicality of the whole situation at the receiving end of the prison system unless they have been there. What you know, more than anything, is that when it comes down to brass tacks, they can do just about ANYTHING they like to you, and there is NO-ONE (still less YOU), who can stop them. It is a very lonely and sobering feeling. There you are, sat in the punishment block on your own, with no radio, newspaper, or friends. And they are outside your door 24 hours a day, every day, with every form of stick and carrot known in the history of repression. And it is all just waiting to fall onto you as soon as you say 'boo to a goose'.

In September 1977, Eddie petitioned the Home Secretary complaining of the general abuse of major tranquilisers used in an attempt at inmate control. In July 1979 he again complained about the use of the major tranquiliser DEPOXAL administered intravenously against a prisoners' will and under threats by a Dr. Cooper. Cooper was later to suffer a mental breakdown himself, but still today remains the Senior Medical Officer at Parkhurst.

On 11th June 1982, Eddie Byrne was put into a prison van, without any warning, and driven hundreds of miles from his comrades in Gartree and his family outside (who wouldn't have known where he had disappeared to until they received a letter from him with a new address on the

top of it) back to prison on the Isle of Wight. The sudden "ghosting" was designed as everything else in prison, to intimidate and to persuade the prisoner that it doesn't pay to step out of line. "I am coming under increasing pressure to accept tranquilliser drugs", Eddie writes in the statement in FRFI, "and I feel this could be the begining of something which could have an extremely detrimental outcome for me".

Despite the recent publicity and the Home Office admissions sparked off by Eddie's documented protests, the administration of psychiatric drugs in English prisons continue to be used as a 'liquid cosh', completely unchecked and ineffectively challenged. Relatives of Frankie Fraser, a member of the Richardson gang who has been inside for 17 years (having received a 15 year sentence and a further five years on top for injuring a screw in the Parkhurst riot of 1969), were reported by the Times of 15th November 1982 as saying that he was being drugged and mis-treated in solitary confinement. The family had received telephone calls from a screw and a former prisoner telling them that Frankie was "being beaten regularly, and deprived of sleep by having his light switched on and off all night...six officers were seen going into his cell with truncheons the other day and they were winding him up, throwing his food on the floor and insulting his family". The family had also been told that Frankie was being injected with Largactil. The block in Armley gaol, Leeds, where Frank is now being kept subjected to this treatment, is notorious for being under the control of a sadistic bunch of National Front screws. No-one ever walks down to the block; you are 'frog-marched' by a gang of screws, your feet never touching the floor, and usually being beaten as you go. A beating is always waiting for you there once you arrive as well.

Courageous as the efforts of individual prisoners like Eddie Byrne and Frankie Fraser are in resisting the prison system, on their own they cannot change the balance of power or the array of weaponry ranged against those inside. Left on their own, without active support and solidarity from us out here, those who resist in prison are easy meat for the likes of Dr. Smith in Gartree and Dr. Cooper in Parkhurst to pick off one at a time. Prisoners inside can only bring the facts to light; it is up to the rest of us to do something about it.

DEATH SENTENCES IN JAPAN

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS CONDENSED FROM A BULLETIN ISSUED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE EAAJAF. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THEM DIRECT AT: PO.BOX 36 ARAKAWA, TOKYO, JAPAN.



Japanese Imperialism has been and still is exploiting the native peoples of Asia. The Ainu people (an indigenous minority in Northern Japan), the Okinawan people, the Formosa people, the Chinese, and peoples in other parts of South East Asia, have all responded to this Imperialism by organising armed struggles which are even now being waged against Japan's new colonialist aggression.

These international revolutionary struggles form an anti-Imperialist "Eastern Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front" (EAAJAF). Four people were arrested on 19 May 1975 and charged with bomb attacks claimed by the EAAJAF: Daidoji Mashi (34), Kataoka Toshiki (34) - both members of the EAAJAF 'Wolf' Unit - Arai Mariko (32), and Kurokawa Yoshimasa (35) - a member of the EAAJAF's 'Scorpion' Unit. On 12 November, 1979 at their first trial the presiding Judge Minohara sentenced both Daidoji Mashi and Kataoka Toshiaki to death, and Kurokawa Yoshimasa to 'life' imprisonment. Arai Mariko got eight years. Judge Naito of the Tokyo High Court confirmed the death sentences at a second trial on 29 October, 1982. This is the first time since 1945 that the death penalty has been declared for a political prisoner in Japan.

In the first trial the defendants were not allowed to produce most of their defence witnesses, and were themselves excluded from the courtroom. A great part of the

proceedings were concerned with "Operation Rainbow" (a plan to blow up the train of Emperor Hirohito, which was not carried out), and in tone and content was reminiscent of the old "High Treason" trials. Kotoku Shusui, an Anarchist, was found guilty of "High Treason" and executed on 24 January, 1911. The crime of "High Treason" was abolished as an amendment to the criminal law of 1947.

International solidarity is urgently needed to stop these death penalties going ahead. Longtime readers of ANARCHY will remember the support that comrades in Japan gave to the campaign to save Noel and Marie Murray from the gallows in Ireland in 1976/7. The Murray Defence Campaign proved that international solidarity can successfully defend revolutionaries from attack. Here is an opportunity to return the support that was forthcoming from our Japanese comrades. WE URGE ALL COMRADES AND FRIENDS TO DELIVER PROTESTS TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, 46 GROSVENOR ST., LONDON W1; OR THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. Messages of support and offers of help should also be sent to the prisoners' support group (see address above), and of course to the prisoners themselves at: KATSUSHIKA-KU, KOSUGE 1-35-1, TOKYO-TO, JAPAN.

* * *

EAAJAF - CHRONOLOGY:

12 Dec.1971- EAAJAF blow up the statue of "Kowa-Kannon" (the Goddess of Mercy), built to reconcile the memory of the Nankin massacre by the Japanese Army in 1937. At the same time, the monument of Junkoku-Shichishi (built to commemorate seven 'A' class war criminals) was bombed.

6 April,1972- Bomb attack on the charnel house of Sojiji (a Buddhist temple storing the ashes of Japanese colonists who invaded Korea).

23 Oct.1972 - Bomb attack on the information centre of Northern Asia, belonging to the Literature Dept.of Hokkaido Univ.- an ideological base in the invasion of the Ainu moshiri (ancestral land of the Ainu minority), and their cultural heritage. A bomb also blew up the Fusetsu-no-gunzo, a memorial statue glorifying the aggression against the Ainu moshiri, at the same time.

30 Aug.1974- The 'Wolf' Unit of EAAJAF blew up part of the Head Office of Mitsubishi Heavy Industry (inspired by the action of Moon Sae-gwnag, a Korean living in Japan, who shot President Park of Korea on the day after the EAAJAF abandoned their plan to blow up the train of the Japanese Emperor). The Unit used the bomb originally prepared for "Operation Rainbow" (intended to blow the train), and the power of the explosion far exceeded their calculations. Set on the pavement, the bomb killed eight passers-by and injured many more. A telephoned warning of the attack by the Unit was ignored.

14 Oct.1974- EAAJAF's 'Fangs of the Earth' Unit blew up the computer room of Mitsui Products Co.,head office.

25 Nov.1974- Bomb attack on the central laboratory of Teijin Ltd., a multinational petrol and food company which produced armaments during WWII.

10 Dec.1974- 'Fangs of the Earth' Unit exploded a bomb on the first floor of the Taisei Construction Co.'s head office. In a communique afterwards the group wrote: "Taisei Construction represented before the war, and still represents today, Japanese Imperialism. It has promoted exploitation of the proletariat in Japan and aggression in Korea, Indonesia, Arabia and Brazil. Tasei Construction is built on the blood and corpses of colonised peoples such as the Korean workers who were massacred in the construction yard of the

Shinao river water-power plant in Niigata Pref. in 1922."

23 Dec.1974- The Scorpion Unit of EAAJAF bombed the Kajima Construction headquarters. During WWII Kajima Construction used slave labour conscripted from Korea, China and Formosa in the war industries of Japan. It forced 986 Chinese prisoners of war to work in the Hanaoka agency of Akita province, and was responsible for the massacre of 418 of them through starvation, lynching, torture, and other means of execution. The Chinese prisoners responded to this genocide by launching an uprising which ended in failure, and the further massacre of half of the rebels.

28 Dec.1975- In a combined operation, three units of EAAJAF launched simultaneous bomb attacks on the Overseas HQ (6th floor), computer room (9th floor), and Omiya factory of the Hazama-gumi Ltd. Hazama-gumi has a long history of using slave labour (going back to the end of the 19th century). During WWII it forced 370 Chinese POW's to work on the building site of the Kisodani power station, lynching and torturing 92 of them to death. In October 1945 it suppressed an armed rebellion of 100 prisoners. In 1974 the company was contracted by the Razaku government in Malaya to build the Temengor dam - a project closely linked with efforts to destroy a guerrilla base of the Malaysian Communist Party.

19 April, 1975- Simultaneous bomb attacks on the Institute of the Korean Industry & Economy, and the Oriental Metal Manufacture.

27 April,1975- Bomb attack on the Edogawa Construction yard of Hazama-gumi.

4 May, 1975- Bomb attack on a compressor in Hazama-gumi's Edogwa yard.

19 May, 1975- Eight members of EAAJAF are arrested. One, Saito Nodoka, committed suicide by taking poison.

25 June, 1975 - Funamoto Shuji, an organiser of the labourers (the lowest social class in Japan) immolated himself in front of the gate to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa crying, "Prevent the Crown Prince from coming to Okinawa! Smash the counter-revolutionary sally base against the Korean revolutionary war!". He left behind the following appeal: "My friends, the warriors of the Eastern Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front! Your struggle was a resound-

ing voice telling everyone that the only path to change the future of Eastern Asia is the path of an armed rebellion!"

4 Aug.1975- Sasaki Norio is released from prison as one of the demands of the Japanese Red Army occupying the Embassies of Sweden and the USA in Kwalalumper.

1 Oct.1977 - Ekita Yukiko and Daidoji Ayako are liberated from prison by the hijacking of an aircraft by the Japanese Red Army in Dacca.

12 Nov.1979- Daidoji Masashi and Kataoka Toshiaki are sentenced to death at their first trial; Kurokawa Yoshimasa gets 'life' and Arai Maiko is given eight years.

8 May, 1982 - Their second trial begins.

12 July, 1982 - Ugajin Hisaichi, a member of the EAAJAF 'Scorpion' Unit, is arrested.

29 Oct.1982 - The death sentences are confirmed.

* *

PRISONERS' LETTERS

KATAOKA TOSHIAKI: "It was on 12 December, 1971 that our first bomb exploded. I remember even now, as if it occurred yesterday, the uneasiness and expectation we felt till the next morning when we picked up a news paper to find the headline saying "The monument of the war criminal was blasted". I could clearly feel my heart-beat then.

"But what I cannot forget no matter how I try is the emergency radio news we heard in the car leaving the scene, after having set a bomb in front of the hall of the Mitsubishi Heavy industry on 30 August (friday) in 1974. The bomb killed and injured so many citizens, besides causing material damage to the Mitsubishi.

"Eight years have passed since then.

"I gave up from that day the faith that only the armed struggle would be able to liberate us, and have come to deny at last the way of armed revolution.

"But I have never been ashamed of our struggle. Our struggle was like an effort

to open up a path where no one has ever treaded.

"Looking back today, one may find it ridiculous how high spirited we were then, but , I believe that no one has right to laugh at our struggle to open up a new age in which we risked our whole being. The ghost of militarism, which we tried to destroy at the risk of our own lives ten years ago, is reviving now.

"The targets of our struggle were, therefore, rightly chosen. But it is so unfortunate for both Japanese and the people of Eastern Asia that the justice of our original intention is being proved in such a way like this."

DAIDOJI MASASHI: "Many of you must be concerned about how we think of the blasting of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry.

"We criticise ourselves deeply about our fault which led to the killing and injuring of so many people by the blasting.

"The Okami (Wolf) Unit of the Eastern Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front did not intend to bring about the human casualties. The purpose of the operation was to cause damage to the head office of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry. But the result was far beyond our estimate. We realise that such a result was caused by our immaturity in thought and technique: we could not follow the basic principle of not injuring people and attacking, instead, the core of the enemy.

"This self-criticism and reflection could be materialised, I think, not by liquidating the anti-Japan armed struggle, but by continuing struggles, based on the lesson we must learn from the above failure of ours, to destroy the political, economical and military center of Japanese Imperialism.

"Whether we like it or not, we are Japanese living inside Japanese Imperialism at the sacrifice of the colonised peoples, and also assisting aggression by permitting Japanese tourists traveling abroad to buy the native women, for example.

"We cannot reform such a state of our being unless we succeed in overthrowing Japanese Imperialism."

KUROKAWA YOSHIMASA: "Our direct actions were accusation of the very history of Japan which the Japanese government is eager to conceal: the history of invasion and counter-revolution. We called Japan to account its deed as a victimiser. We accused the Emperor and the Imperial system which are again being openly promoted by the government as the ideological core to justify invasion and counter-revolution.

"Why do we insist on calling Japan to account its past deed as an invader and a counter-revolutionary? It is not just that we want to pay by our own blood for the genocidal assaults upon the peoples colonised by Japan. It is because the past wrong doing would never pass away unless it is punished by direct actions; if not punished the past would keep appearing in the present and future. This is why we cannot forget the history of Japanese invasion and counter-revolution: we cannot allow it to be concealed, we must call Japan to account.

"From 1967 to 1970 large numbers of workers, citizens and students inside the Imperialist Japan rose up to protest at the US Imperialist invasion of Vietnam. Within the wave of the anti-war movement we were becoming angry at ourselves: with

all the demos we were only standing by and watching the fire raging on "the other shore", Vietnam. Furthermore, it was Japan which supplied the US military with sortie bases, the recuperatory institutions. Japan offered the material base for the US invasion, and by doing so, promoted its high economical growth. Yes, the Japanese prosperity was founded on the corpses of the Vietnamese. Our own life as Japanese was based upon the sacrifice of the Vietnamese lives. We ourselves were victimisers of the Vietnamese. And yet we were only audiences of the "fire on the other shore". We were getting impatient.

"The struggle to end the war in Vietnam motivated the students to rise up in the campuses: the Zenkoyo-to struggle started from Nihon University, Tokyo University and spread nation-wide. We, as students, exposed the present day universities with their policy of cooperating with the industry as institutions serving imperialism. We accused our professors and the university authorities such as the faculty body for letting themselves be used as a cat's paw of the state power. But, it was not enough to accuse the universities and the professors. We had to question who we were while accusing the authorities...we were also part of the Imperialist systems..."

("CROSSWORD" STRIKE cont'd from P. 13)

The stewards sent a letter to the local newspaper (which was printed on the front page) denouncing the strike committee for misleading the Platers into a situation which was becoming more difficult to resolve each day it continued. In the past when the Platers had been on strike, the company had started suspending other sections of the workforce after two or three days - we were out for three weeks and this never happened. We believe that a deal was struck between the shop stewards and the company: that if the company refrain from suspending the rest of the workforce then the shop stewards committee would sabotage the Platers' strike by whatever means they could. A couple of days after the stewards article in the local rag the district delegate called another meeting. This time he got what he wanted - a return to work so that the meeting between the union and the company could take place. It did - Pat Clark was still sacked and John Gillishan got his suspension reduced to a week. We returned to work beaten and demoralised.

On 14th May 1982, the Scott Lithgow stewards committee signed a no strike agreement with the company. The company's propaganda regarding the state of the industry has been accepted by them. No way are they prepared or willing to fight further redundancies that seem to be coming our way. Their attitude is - if we are good boys and behave ourselves maybe we will get orders.

In Poland the army breaks up workers strikes. In the Scott Lithgow group it's the shop stewards committee that breaks strikes.

- A. Plater -



This article has been much reduced for reasons of space. It is hoped that the London Workers Group will produce a fuller version in the near future.



SNIPER

OUR MASKED COLUMNIST AIMS FOR THE HEART OF THE MATTER.

There is a matter which I feel compelled to mention; the question of those 'comrades' who inform to the police to save their own skins, or to make any kind of deal with the police. It's a growing problem. I know three definite cases within recent memory and I have heard murmurs about two others. The prevalent attitude seems to be one of indifference and should anyone raise the matter of these scum it is met by either an embarrassed silence or pathetic excuses on their behalf. Now I don't think that there are any excuses for grassing. I also think that it is something that everyone in the movement should be responsible for - a grass should at the very least be immediately ostracised and preferably at the first opportunity his/her legs should be broken (in the first instance) as a warning to the cowardly scum that may, and undoubtedly do, lurk within the movement, to get out while the going is good. This should all be obvious. Recent experience has shown that we do not completely trust each other, and understandably so. It's essential that we do build up this trust within our groups, so that not only do we know that the people with us will back us up in the streets and not leg it at the first sign of danger, but also that we are as certain as we can be that some sordid individual isn't going to inform on us if they happen to get lifted. It's a truism that a group that has confidence and trust in each other has a strength out of proportion to its numbers or individual strengths; we don't even have to like each other personally to be

effective.

Talking of collaborators brings to mind the ridiculous scenes of the pacifists at Greenham Common being dragged through the mud by the eviction force of police late last year, which for me, summed up the pacifist ideology; reinforced by an item in the news a month or so before the eviction which caught my eye. Apparently a number of unruly persons arrived at the camp and decided to rip down the fence of the proposed missile base and cause a little damage on the site. Fair enough I hear you say, but here's the rub; a spokeswoman at the Peace Camp condemned this action and stated that it was done by outsiders...



BOOKS

CIENTFEUGOS PRESS ANARCHIST
REVIEW No. 6.
(£1 plus postage.)

Cienfeugos Books has finally gone to the great co-operative commonwealth in the sky, so this issue of the review is to be the last.

Cienfeugos' reputation was largely, and quite rightly founded on the extremely high standard of the review. This issue is smaller than previous ones but retains the same mix of material. The reviews success was in filling the gap for serious anarchist analysis and criticism. More generally, it offered those people sick of the "alternative" intellectual package deals (eg. the various 'marxisms'), two things: an attitude of scepticism from a revolutionary perspective, and an introduction to alternative traditions of thinking. It opened the possibility up of a genuine alternative - serious revolutionary thought reflecting the world today, rather than the works of the 'masters'. If this possibility has remained latent, that is the failure of the movement, and can't detract from the achievements of the review.

The main article in this issue is an investigative account of the SAS by Stuart Christie, focussing not so much on its history in counter-insurgency work, but on its ties to the establishment and the security industry. It has already recieved the doubtful accolade of being reprinted in the SAS regimental journal.

The historical reprint is

Libertarian Communism by Isaac Puente - a leading CNT theorist who died in the civil war. The hagiographic introduction suggests it describes the organisational principles that will "inevitably" be adopted by the workers when the "apparatus of mirage and blackmail is thrown off". In fact it is a compact statement of anarcho syndicalist ideals, and deserves more serious treatment than to place it on a pedestal as the introduction appears to suggest.



The only major disappointment is John Zerzans 'The Practical Marx' reprinted from Fifth Estate. This does a hatchet job on Marx's life and lifestyle in contrast to his revolutionary beliefs. Few of us could escape such a scrutiny unscathed and its naive or hypocritical to expect otherwise. Marx is a legitimate target for demystifying but this is so biased as to be useless even in its own terms, and will only be of use to those anxious to set up their own anarchist golden calves in opposition. They should have printed more of Richard Warrens excellent illustrations and lost the article.

(Available from A Distribution or BCM Refract, London, WC1N 3XX)

- C.O.Jones -

EAST END UNDERWORLD:
Chapters in the Life of
Arthur Harding. Ed. Raphael
Samuel (R & KP, £6.95)

A racy though somewhat over-edited story of the life of an "East End Villain", this gives some interesting insights into half-a-century of the 'lumpen-proletariat' - a term often misused (some imagining it to be synonymous with 'proletariat', as they have made 'petty bourgeois' synonymous with 'bourgeois') but meaning the submerged class unable to work with its hands, having no capital to work for it, and entering into the minor branches of crime.

Mr Harding entered into minor crime from a "lumpen" conservative background - the "lumpen" always had a strong streak of patriotism on which the politicians played (and do to this day) not to mention a respect for the wealthy as privileged, and hatred of the industrial worker. This is why Harding himself at a later stage of his life, followed Mosley in the days when Sir Oswald's sycophants were taking him nightly on a trip round the same two or three streets to assure him the working class were with him. Mosley with his upper-class background thought that a few lumpens in a carefully selected back street area were "the British Workers"; and for their applause threw away the solid middle-class support with which he might even become Fuhrer, or at least a Conservative Minister. (Contrary to legend, he never had the least chance of making it in the Labour Party except

as a minor attraction).

Harding observed the Anarchists too, in the pre-WWI days. He was always friendly with the Jewish workers and especially with the criminals amongst the Russian immigrants. The Tsar had succeeded in criminalising a large part of the population. In England at that time there was an anti-foreign, anti-poor campaign which lumped together Russians, Anarchists, paupers, criminals and Jews - which exploded in the "Tottenham Outrage" and the "Siege of Sidney Street." The true stories of both have yet to be told but Arthur Harding throws an interesting light on the background. Politically he doesn't know t'other from which and Raphael Samuel doesn't help him - he assumes Communists were what the Anarchists later called themselves when their own name proved less than respectable! - but he is quite interesting though untypical: the average yobbo with Arthur Harding's background broke up Socialist, anti-war, women's suffrage meetings - often paid for by the Conservative or Liberal funds (Mosley was the culmination of this), attempted to terrorise working class Jews as in our day they have attacked Bengalis in Brick Lane, and so on. But there were a few who broke away, despite Arthur Morrison in his famous novel "A Child of the Jago" who made the point that this was impossible. In the thirties gradually more and more broke away, including it seems Arthur Harding. The slums produced them, they went with the slums.

- Albert Meltzer -

FRIGHTENED FOR MY LIFE -
An Account of Deaths in
British Prisons. Geoff
Coggan and Martin Walker.
(FONTANA £1.95)

Both Geoff Coggan and Martin Walker have been involved in PROP - The National Prisoners Movement - for a number of years, and Martin Walker was one of the founders of JAIL (Justice Against Identification Laws). In 1980 he set up the Criminal Research and Action Group. It was with this in mind that I obtained a copy of this book, hoping that a book written by activists instead of the usual academic sociologists would reject 'objective' analysis and sociological terms, and concentrate on the class nature of prisons and imprisonment in Britain.

The first two thirds of the book are taken up with fairly straight-forward accounts of seven prison deaths since 1974 caused by medical neglect or murder by screws, but with a variety of Coroners verdicts including 'Death from Natural Causes' and 'Death from Self-neglect' or 'Misadventure', 'Open-verdict', and 'Unlawfully Killed'. Some cases have been the subject of media attention, particularly the murder of Barry Prosser, but no-where else have I seen the detail in the accounts of the deaths, which in itself is a reason for reading this book.

The final third of the book deals - in four short chapters - with Coroners Courts, Prison Doctors and the Home Office, Prison Officers and the Home Office, and The Control of Abuses. I particularly objected to the analysis of Prison Officers and the

Home Office, which argues that the Prison Officers Association (POA) in recent years has started to behave more like a Trade Union.



The authors, in their own words, "attempt to put the power of the screws in perspective", mentioning the lack of solidarity within the POA and the fact that they have no industrial muscle and "for this reason they share the impotence of the prisoners themselves" - a somewhat specious argument.

Screws are part of the State's repressive machinery. As such they do not merely lock up "anti-social" people but anyone who challenges the Capitalist Ideology, or anyone who does not accept their allotted economic position (including prostitutes bank robbers and trade unionists). It is because of what screws are, not merely the way they do their job, that the bargaining power of the screws or their 'working conditions' are irrelevant. The important question is how best to control their murderous impulses. It is a question of information coming out of the prisons, solidarity both within and without prison, and perhaps a bit

of retaliation from people outside to demonstrate that screws cannot always escape proletarian justice.

The book concludes with PROP's recommendations to the 1979 May inquiry, some worthwhile reforms to someone in prison. However, it

is the final paragraph, which for me, sums up the attitude of both PROP and the writers of this book:

"...It is by such integration of the prison system with the community which it is avowedly intended to serve that the major safe-

guard against abuse would be provided. Backed by legislation it could make the sort of statistic which prompted this book a thing of the past."

- Billy Block -

MIGUEL GARCIA'S STORY, Miguel Garcia (Edited & Introduced by Albert Meltzer, Miguel Garcia Memorial Committee/Cienfuegos Press, £1.50 inc. p&p.).

Miguel Garcia died of TB in a London hospital in December 1981 after a life dedicated to the Libertarian ideal. He was unique in that after struggling for Anarchism in Spain, after 20 years in Franco's prisons, he again came to the front from a new direction, this time on the international field. He was an inspiration for all the revolutionary Anarchist groups, the Angry Brigade, the First of May Solidarity groupings, the MIL...as well as others in Spain, Germany and England.



Miguel Garcia, 1976.

This volume is a salute to his memory. It contains scenes from his early life, a first-hand account of the fighting during the Civil War in the Anarchist militia columns, and personal appreciations by Phil Ruff, Stuart Christie, Goliardo Fiaschi, G.Horst, Mike Goodman, and Colin Pollard.

"Timely publication of the Spanish Civil War memoirs of a veteran Spanish Anarchist...A graphic account of the fighting, behind which the great political experiments were taking place."

-TIME OUT-

"...not only a satisfying way to remember a fine man and a good comrade but also a stirring story for its own sake."

-FREEDOM-

WITH THE PEASANTS OF ARAGON, by Augustin Souchy (Soil of Liberty/Cienfuegos, £2.50 plus postage.)

The Investigative Researcher's Handbook

Compiled and edited by Stuart Christie

150pp, large format (A4) paperback, £5.50

This handbook is intended as an introduction as to how ordinary people can find and use information resources for information about individuals, organisations, companies and state structures. It is also a primer on the methodology and techniques of field research (ie. going out and seeing what is happening, or what has been done, who is doing it—and why!)

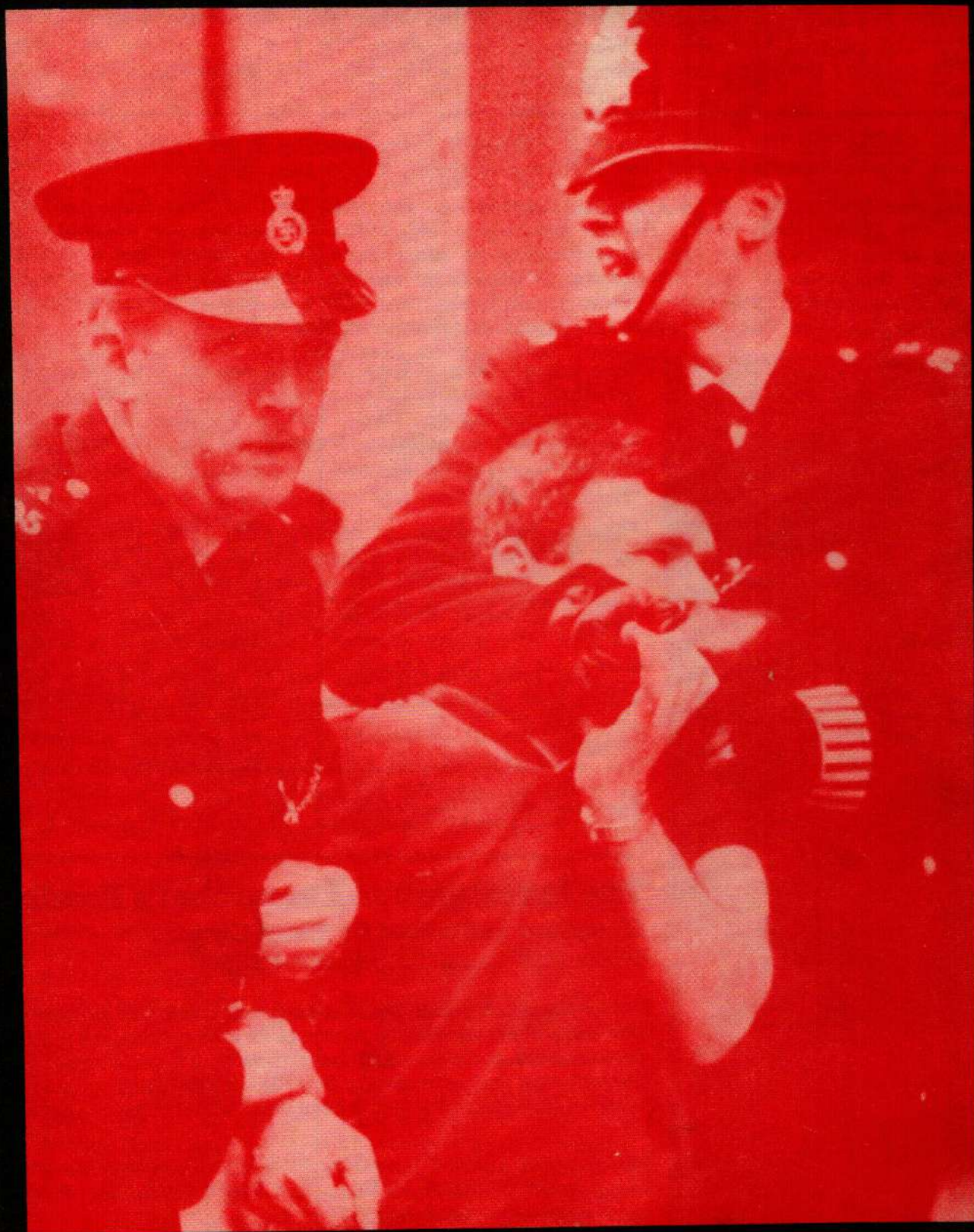
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