



### 65th DAY OF THE PICKET

Rain and cold did not deter 3000 pickets in a jointly-sponsored Sogat/NGA march from Tower Hill to Wapping. There were AUEW and NUJ strikers, a contingent from the London Press Branch EEPTU and many fine youthful supporters who have been won to the cause of the striking workers (despite what some may think about trade unionism). Many of these people remained late into the night, long after the hordes of paper-sellers with their hypocritical advice had gone.

The evening march proceeded along the Highway to Virginia Street, where once again a good number of pickets gathered. This was broken up by some stewards.

Several hundred pickets stayed at Virginia St and Thomas More, plus the same number went out to Glamis Road. Smaller numbers were at Cannon St Road and King David, and about 1000 roving.

As the clocks were turned forward during the night, it was after two when the bustle of police made it clear the strikebreakers were moving into action to do their filthy task. At 2:40am twenty-two lorries left through Virginia, left on the Highway and up Dock Street.

By this time there were perhaps a thousand pickets left strung out in different spots.

Police strikebreakers prepared for the scab run by putting a line of horses into The Highway just East of Virginia Street. Pickets moved to Dock Street. Two arrests were made during the move, and forty of the bosses' thugs swarmed in to prevent the crowd freeing the pickets, one of them screaming for her life.

Ten mounted strikebreakers, and more on foot, moved in to form a barrier just east of Thomas More and pickets at Dock Street were cut off. Despite an open exit through John Fisher Street no one left. The strikebreakers in uniform complete with horses and more riot squads (some quite young) formed a path from Virginia Street to Dock Street. The convoy left to shouts from the sixty or so pickets penned in at Dock Street. Another group of pickets were at the top of Dock Street. Riot squads cleared a way with truncheons.

Divide and rule is the way of the bourgeoisie and its slimy lackeys. While workers are fighting each other for jobs the profiteers slash pay and conditions.

## NOTES

- Last week flying pickets arrived unannounced in Kent. Strikebreakers were caught by surprise. It then took some time for a swarm of police protection to be brought in. Meanwhile the scab lorries could not get into the depot till late.
- Tuesday morning an anti-scab rally was held at Gray's Inn Road. A few hundred pickets, organised by the clericals, gathered. The chanting in unison is one effective way of getting the message across. One picket summed up sentiments well by hollering at a crawler "You're no good".
- Pickets at Wapping were given a treat again Tuesday night by Sogat drivers going by in a long convoy.
- Thursday night, the splendid vanworkers outdid themselves by holding a party at the Wapping picket line. A tent was set up with food and drink. Over two hundred regulars interspersed shouting at scabs with a spot of relaxation. Complete with a music truck set up in the park beside Wellclose the night was a welcome change. The party afforded a good chance to pause and think.  
The line of the pickets is clear, this strike goes on.

- Tuesday 8th, 8am: picket at Bouverie St, organised by clericals.
- Wednesday 9th, 9pm: march from Tower Hill, organised by warehouse.
- At this date a union march has not yet been announced for Saturday night. The Campaign Against Police Repression (an ad hoc committee which has organised two previous marches against the Police Bill) had planned to mobilise for 5th April. They have decided to go ahead with a march. This march is supportable.

## SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 8pm TOWER HILL TO WAPPING

### ROUND 3

The generals are looking in the wrong direction to bring this dispute to a win. Picketing is the key. The day scabs have been having an easy time of it. That is a weak link.

The generals are worn out, not the strikers. Throughout the trade job cuts are being implemented. Despite that, there is still broad support for the strike. But it does not come automatically. Industrial support in concert with the NI and Record strikers depends on what the pickets do.

The TUC march is sabotage to wear the ranks out with a long march. Picketing will continue. For weeks the TUC 5 have tried to restart the folders in Gray's Inn Road. It is time for the pickets to think and plan the next move. By acting as a body the regular pickets can bring out reinforcements. Organisation, no matter how rudimentary, is the key. Otherwise individuals are picked off.

### LETTER FROM A YORKSHIRE MINER

*"The struggle that the print workers and the residents of Wapping are now involved in is not a lonely or pointless one. The curtains of 'them' versus 'us' must be pushed back if the common people are to retain or expand their standard of living in the increasing times of pressure from the ruling class. People like Murdoch (and I use the term 'people' very loosely) are nothing compared to the will and wishes of the residents of Wapping and the printers. I urge you to continue in your long struggle and don't think you are alone, even though the media choose not to tell the people of this country the truth about you. The majority of us know the truth and support you to the full. The scabs at the moment have the money and their police friends. But that is nothing compared to the esteem in which you are held in the eyes of the real people. If scabbing is the price to pay for such luxuries then my money is on you good people. SCABS WILL NOT RULE O.K."*

Fred  
(Armthorpe)

Picket note: Armthorpe was the last Yorkshire pit to be forced back to work. This marvellous village held out in the hopes of stopping the return to work. Armthorpe returned on the Friday as a number of pits, one by one, went back after the general return on the Tuesday.

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