

The "East London Advertiser" claims to represent real Eastenders. This newspaper recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. It did so with a pull-out supplement outlining major events in recent East End history. It showed this and it showed that. But nowhere, not once, in not one single half inch of column space, did it say a single thing about Cable Street and about East London's magnificent turnout to block Moseley and his marching Fascists in the 1930s. Lies, damned lies, and journalism.

Reading an account of recent excavations, in a copy of "The London Archeologist". Unlikely though it may seem, this august publication contained information that is of interest. It refers to a site that lies on Ratcliffe Highway, directly south of St George's in the East. What was that site? It was the sight of a Fort. Not, as you may suspect, some ancient ancestor of Rupert Murdoch's "Fortress Wapping". No, this is another fort. It is a fortification erected in 1642, at the start of the English Civil War. Or - let us not distort history - at the start of the English Revolution.

Suffice to say that in 1642, the people of London (sick to the back teeth with the corruption, greed and idleness of the Royal Court, the King and his hangers-on) drove the King out of London. But in order to ensure that he never returned they set to building a wall, a massive military defence all around the City of London. This wall was enormous. It was massive. It was made of earth and stone, with an accompanying ditch. On its outside, it was eighteen feet high. It was nine feet thick at its base. And it was eighteen miles long. It ran from Wapping, all round through Mile End, Brick Lane and Whitechapel, right through to Westminster and Vauxhall and then back, on the other side of the river, to Rotherhithe.

Writers of that period describe how 20,000 people - approximately a tenth of the population of London at that time, picked up shovels and earthbaskets and went, every day for months, to help build this wall. Imagine what an incredible fact - of resistance and of struggle - that must have been.

John Milton, writing in 1644, describes how the people of London laboured not only in defence of their city against Royalists, extortionists and oppressors, but also to build a new world, a world of freedom and ideals;

"Behold now this vast city, a city of refuge, the mansion-house of liberty, encompassed and surrounded with God's protection; the shop of war hath not there more anvils and hammers working to fashion out the plates and instruments of armed justice in defence of beleaguered truth, than there be pens and heads there, sitting by their studious lamps, musing, searching, revolving new notions and ideas, wherewith to present, as with their homage and their fealty, the approaching reformation; others as fast reading, trying all things, assenting to the force of reason and convincement."

CASUAL MARCH

TO SEARS 2.30pm ON FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER

LONDON MACHINE UNATTACHED CHAPEL INVITES ALL PRINTWORKERS TO OUR TRAFFIC! JAMMING MARCH

ASSEMBLE AT THAMES INN HOLBORN NEAR HERRICK BUILDING WITH SPINNERS

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE

WEDNESDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING THERE WILL BE A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AT WAPPING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINTWORKERS DISMISSED BY RUPERT MURDOCH.

MARCHES BEGIN AT 8.30" AT TOWER HILL

Saturday 4th October 12.30pm
Aldgate East tube
March to commemorate battle of Cable St 50 years ago
organisers plan some kind of march towards picnic/speeches

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE

SATURDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

EACH SATURDAY EVENING THERE WILL BE A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AT WAPPING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINTWORKERS DISMISSED BY RUPERT MURDOCH.

MARCHES BEGIN AT 8.30" AT TOWER HILL

Wednesday 17th September, Wapping

The evening march went off as scheduled on the 238th day of the strike. Five hundred made the trek to strengthen the picket lines. Pickets discussed how to overturn the ballot; how to shore up and strengthen the will of the weaker elements in the strike, extend successes in picketing and isolate national leadership of the union.

Thursday 18th September, Surrey

from the Saturday Guardian, "Two policemen and a lorry driver were injured when their vehicles were attacked during Thursday night with petrol bombs, bricks and nails by 200 pickets demonstrating about distribution of News International newspapers. Police were called as the crowd gathered at the TNT lorry depot on the Brooklands industrial estate in Byfleet, Surrey. Missiles were hurled into the compound."

"Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians union, the EETPU, was yesterday barred from an electrical workers' conference in Oslo after being barracked outside the hall by Norwegian printers protesting at the EETPU's role in the Wapping dispute."

Friday 19th September, Wapping

Good spirit as over a thousand striking printers and supporters marched from Temple tube in the afternoon. As it passed thru Fleet St groups of workers assembled in front of their temporary workplaces to cheer the marchers on. When the march arrived at Wapping the arranged speakers didn't have the nerve to show up.

No Surrender

Saturday 20th September, Wapping

While 400 pickets took part in the regular bash from Tower Hill, local residents led printworkers and other trade union members in the third march organised by Tower Hamlets Printworkers Support Group. About 1500 set off from Glamis Rd along The Highway to Butchers Row then west down Commercial Rd, then south on Cannon Street Rd past the Cable Street Mural to King David Lane and onto The Highway again. The march arrived and stayed at Wapping Lane some time to jeer the assorted low-life from Fortress Wapping as it scuttled off at speed through the back streets of Wapping to escape by Thomas More St and St Katherines Way, possibly later than usual. After the local march had returned to Glamis Rd to hold a brief vigil before dispersing several groups of pickets took up positions in the area to stone and harass vulnerable scab vehicles throughout the small hours, unmolested by the scum. The hapless bluebottles were given a comprehensive run-around. Frayed tempers frequently snapped and several local residents were stopped from going home by the police.

Wednesday 24th September, Wapping

In the daytime several residents stand for an hour at Wapping Lane to scab off the strikebreakers.

A slow march to Wapping from Tower Hill in good weather. Yet another solid response to TUC 5 proposal to surrender. No matter how neutred these marches have become thru Co-operation with the police, these marches are still necessary as an efficient way of bringing numbers to the picket line.

Thursday 25th September, meeting

About eleven or twelve hundred rallied at Westminster Central Hall to oppose the deal. Most sections of the strike are involved in this meeting but there are also some other meetings to oppose the deal.

Thursday 25th September, Wapping

Going down to Wapping for a few hours even if it is "boring". More boring to stay at home. Feel better for it. "Scab".

Friday 26th September, Wapping

Assembled at Tower Hill in the morning for a surprise march. Scab bus loading up. Several pickets rush up to confront it but pulls away. 2-250 fill street for an impromptu march. Scab bus coming by. Pickets try to stand in front of it and kick and pound on the sides but gets past. Lone police van follows, revving up engine to try to provoke the pickets, instead it breaks down twice. March proceeds along The Highway, then north on Ensign and east on Cable, down Cannon St Rd to The Highway again and over to Wellclose. Ranks are showing. Candidates have not. Police strikebreakers are concentrated in Virginia St.



Saturday 27th September, Wapping

Thousands from Socialist groups swell the 92nd march to Wapping. Unfortunately they don't stay long. Later the police make some arrests when pushing a few hundred off The Highway at Virginia St but an hour later it is retaken for a brief period as police numbers dwindle. Later numbers of pickets congregate at several points, including one hundred at Wapping in the middle of the night to jeer scabs. The police strikebreakers have trouble getting their lorries out as several juggernauts are bricked several times.

South Wales Echo 27th August

Union order printers to scrap demo

HUNDREDS OF South Wales print workers have been told by their union to stay away from Wapping this weekend.

The Wales and the West branch of SOGAT '82 had planned a march and rally on Saturday at News International headquarters.

But they have been ordered by their national president to cancel the demonstration at Mr Rupert Murdoch's London printing plant.

A local official said there was a worry that another union were holding a rally on the same day and any trouble could mean "legal ramifications" for SOGAT.

A High Court judge

recently banned them from mass picketing and restricted protests to six pickets at the main entrance.

Withdrawn

They were also warned about organising demonstrations or marches which involved "commission of wrongful acts" like nuisance or obstruction.

A letter cancelling this weekend's rally has been

issued from the Wales and the West branch headquarters at Pontypridd.

It says that the event — previously sanctioned by the union's head office — had to be called off because permission had been withdrawn.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are organising a demonstration on Saturday afternoon.

A spokesman for the SOGAT branch said they were "more than disappointed" by the head office instruction and would be seeking a detailed explanation for the last-minute decision.

About 500 people were expected to travel from South Wales and the West Country for a protest including a march from Tower Hill to Wapping — the centre of the row over the sacking of print workers.

Notes

- Corrections to previous issue:
 1. scab Martin Barber has moved
 2. scab Alan Alltimes has left Wapping
 3. scab Alan Butcher has moved
 4. Wally Edmunds is in charge of maintenance not machines

- Letter from Bristol:

Western Webb Offset used to print Murdoch's News of the World at a factory off Bath Rd. in Bristol until flying pickets from Wapping stopped one whole delivery losing them the contract. This was well over 2 months ago so it's old news, but when somebody found another disused building of theirs it seemed an ideal place to squat for a benefit towards the printers struggle.



Early on picketing in Bristol

- Clerical scab: Gerry Antill, 3 Milton Cottages, 109 Butchers La, Mere-worth, Kent
- Times NUJ scab: Clifford Longley, 24 Broughton Rd, Farnborough, Kent, 0689 57812
- EETPU scab worked as a milkman for the Co-op before recruitment to Wap-ping; Peter Drinkwater, 6 Ponderoft Hatfield, Herts 63781

Concise written contributions welcome

Income: £5 NGA minder; £5 Southampton; 60p Leicestershire; 50p picket;
£1, £13.50 NGA strikers; £2.67 bookshop sales; £5.90 clerical strikers;
30p green; £5 whip; £5 ST NGA machine; £25.50 sales of part 3;
£10 S. Mirror warehouses; 27p machine striker Now; £2 casual machine;
£2.52 ST machine strikers; £5 Corby

Picket c/o Housmans Books, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX
Published by picketing print union members