

Wapping (Commercial Road): 25th October. The march to Wapping from Tower Hill was quite well attended. Later in the evening groups started heading towards the Commercial Road. Once on the Commercial Road there were groups maybe totalling 200-300, roaming up and down waiting for the scab lorries. People were not disappointed. The scab lorries did come along, and where we were standing 3 were bricked, leaving misty screens. One guy legged it up a side road being chased by two plods, these in turn being chased by 30 pickets, only to arrive to see him being bundled into a mobile pig sty. Large numbers of pickets were blatantly outwitting the plods, which was good.

Wapping: Saturday 1st November. The march was led by 30 unemployed workers from Jarrow. With their banner at the front, the march set off for Scab Castle. On arrival, we were greeted by fireworks, with rockets hurtling into the fortress' compound to the cheers of the 3,000 plus crowd. Later, several hundred pickets appeared in the Commercial Road and surrounding area. Half the Met seemed to be there with us, in Transit vans, coaches, unmarked cars and on foot.

Such presence that at about 11.45pm they felt safe escorting a convoy of artics out from Butcher Row and left up the Commercial Road. This was a mistake, for as they approached a crossing, pickets flooded out and stopped the convoy. As they started up again, the escorting police Landrover must have flicked up a couple of bricks, because suddenly, large gaps appeared in two of the artics' windscreens.

Inspector from Sutton was complaining that he and his men were not on overtime. In other words, they had been taken off their normal duty of spying on workers in a regular area and pushed off to strikebreaking in Wapping.

Tuesday 4th November: March from South London. In the afternoon, about eight hundred strikers and supporters assembled at the London College of Printing. Marched through to Bermondsey and Tower Hill without much incident. Stopped for a while on bridge and just over it. Finished at Wapping three hours later, and gathered at Wellclose. As crowd is breaking up, uniformed thugs move in and make a number of arrests. There are scattered struggles and spit in the air.

New writers welcome.

Wednesday 5th November: Wapping. A good night was had by one and all. March gathers at two ends of the Highway. From the West march 1,000 mainly NGA strikers, and supporters have marched from Tower Hill and massed in a compact block on the Highway just West of Virginia Street. To the right there is the iron fence, then rows of razor wire, then the parking lot for the scab juggernauts.

In the East, assembled at Butchers Row. Blackleg artics go by early, to shouts of: "Scab!". At the edge of the crowd there is one arrest for saying "scab". The march of 1,000 mainly SOGAT goes West on the Highway, stopping all too briefly at major scab exit routes, Glamis Road, Wapping Lane, then arriving at Virginia Street, where there are more police and mounted Kinnocks behind barriers. Fireworks go off in Wellclose. A number land in the police ranks. One horse throws its incumbent to the dirt. Hicks makes police announcements that fireworks must stop. Police move into Wellclose. Several hundred pickets move up to the van area in Wellclose Square to face the uniformed thugs. A steward tries to get pickets to leave area, and some do. After a while, there are scattered arrests and some workers are knocked to the ground by police in the process of doing their "job". Fireworks continue to go off. Massed ranks continue till early hours.

Saturday 8th November: Wapping. 2,500 stalwarts march to Wapping. As march stood in the Highway, a slow delay firework went off arching over the crowd to land right on a scab lorry parked on the ramp. Smoke billowed. Later a march was held to Commercial Road, but didn't manage to break free of uniformed strikebreakers. Patrolled here and there till late. A few scab lorries seen that had been talked to.

Tuesday 11th November. 400 printers assembled at the Scabtimes building and marched down Gray's Inn Road. Stopped for fifteen minutes or so before Chancery Lane tube to barrack a *Sun* reader in the offices above the ex-Woolworth store. Then High Holborn and Farringdon, Fleet Street, to stop unfortunately briefly at Bouverie Street to chant again the theme song: "Rupert Murdoch, Rupert Murdoch, Stick your money up your bum". Arrived at rally at Law Courts to demand: **Freedom for Imprisoned Printers David Payne, Bob Tetaur and Steven Savage.**

Wednesday evening, 12th November. Good turnout, about 1,000, heroes all. Marching, chests bursting forward; copper tries to elbow a banner carrier and pickets crowd around, compact tight, surrounded, strikebreaker backs away. A body is arrested at rear of the march for telling truth to a copper; march reverses immediately and stops in front of Tower Hotel for an hour. Arrives late at Wellclose, to give choruses of "Scabs". Several scab lorries have been timed to leave scab plant just now in a failed attempt to demoralise pickets, la crème de la crème.

Southampton News. Hot from the area that print union bureaucrats pretend doesn't exist, comes news from the TGWU's regional committee. In a formal press statement, John Ashman (district secretary) states that 15 TNT trunker drivers based at Eastleigh, Hants and Milton, Oxon, are being recommended nationally for expulsion. Mr Ashman apologised for postponements, that held over the decision from July 23rd, but virtually blamed the rule book's appeal procedure for that situation. Expulsion is virtually certain now, in view of drivers' failure to produce a convincing argument as to their anti-social behaviour at Wapping.

Coliseum and Marchwood Coaches, Southampton. Before we all allow the Southampton TGWU to congratulate itself about its dilatory action against TNT, let us not forget John Ashman's total failure to do the same with scab coach drivers at unionised Marchwood Motorways. Although only two men are alleged to be on the Wapping rat-run (the same as at non-union Coliseum), both the Southampton TGWU and the other drivers continue to ignore the ugly scabs in their midst. Despite the recent encounter with a reception committee in the Blackfriars Underpass, which ventilated a Coliseum Setra coach, the democratic David Pitter (Coliseum's owner) who vowed to stop the run if one of his coaches was zapped, still dirties his hands on Murdoch's danegeld. Southampton TGWU are on 0703 37373; ask for John Ashman, Livvy Read and/or Denny Harriman. Marchwood Motorways are on 0703 869033, 842134, 845433 and 868020 (nights). Coliseum are on 0703 472377, whilst the many other numbers of Pitters Transport Ltd are: 0703 472385, 472572, 474567 and 477125.

Southampton EETPU. News of discontent and some more recent dismissals reaches us, as the cauldron seethes. Current griping centres on new and more oppressive security measures and searches, bollockings about paper wastage, and the continued failure by Hammond and Scanlon over scab-union recognition. Advertisements placed in local papers by traditional shore-line employers have attracted a fair number of Wapping scabs seeking an escape route, whilst the CEGB, who have proposed a new coal-fired power station at Marchwood, have been "deluged" with enquiries. One Wapping scab from Buresdon (name known but withheld) claims his ex-mates beat him up after he was sacked, to warn him off talking to us.

IF THE HIGHWAY COULD SPEAK, it would tell you of a struggle that's now going on. It would speak of brave deeds, and of cowards. Of the few that have now sadly gone. It would speak of the blood and the anger, of horses sent into the fray. Of men who are wet and so weary but still they will not back away.

It would speak of confusion and panic. Of heroes, of young and of old. Of women supporting their menfolk and themselves, of youngsters so brave and so bold.

It would speak of the lies told by policemen when they speak to the cameras and say: "We don't use unmarked Policemen. The pickets just see it that way."

It would tell of the dark deeds of Police Chiefs when they steal railings from churches nearby. To show to the Pressmen and cameras and claim they were thrown at his eye.

If the Highway could speak, it would tell you, that we have the right on our side. But as history has always demanded, we must show our passion and pride.

It would speak of Mistakes made by Murdoch, in sacking us all in this way. For now we have no jobs to go to. In the Highway we might as well stay.

It would speak of the censor of Whitehall, whose aim is to keep it all quiet. Of Fleet Street, and its three monkeys: Don't Print It; Don't Hear It; and No Sight.

For they have a vested interest, to see we are beaten and checked. Then the workers of this dear old country will find themselves truly decked.

Welcome to WAM Newsletter

TO THE TUNE - A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY

It's a long way to Fortress Wapping,
It's a long way to go.
It's a long way to Fortress Wapping,
To the dirty scabs we know.

Good-bye dear old Fleet Street,
Farewell to Gough Square.
It's a long, long way to Fortress Wapping,
But we're marching there.

TO THE TUNE - TWO LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE

Two paper boys in blue - lad,
Two paper boys in blue.
Ran riot at Wapping, beating up pickets,
While guarding Murdoch's scab crew.

The chief paper boy in blue - lad,
Said well done, your promotion is due.
They've got shiny new shoulder pips,
They're now drinking P.G. Tips,
With Sun readers - at the London Zoo.

Now. Who pulls hardest gets most of the blanket.

Demonstrate at
Unilever HQ
Blackfriars
Station EC4
12 noon 27th
November
Organised by
London
Greenpeace
to show support
for 43 animal
rights activists
currently
in prison
Animal rights
activists have
been good
pickets at
Wapping

Campaign
Against Police
Repression
March
29th November
12 noon
Assemble Clock
Tower Place,
Market Road,
N7
Against Public
Order Act just
passed



Income: 70p clerical striker; 29p NGA clerk; £1.80 Glasgow unemployed; £1.00 SOGAT striker; 60p strikers; 20p resident; £1.00 gardener; £5.00 NGA casual; £8.96 NGA strikers; £1.00 unemployed; £5.00 Oxford printers' support group; £10.00 Southampton *Hard Times*; £10.00 *S. Mirror* warehouse; £5.00 working NGA compositor.

Part 4 now available, send £1.00 in cash or stamps to:
Picket clo Housman's Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX
Published by picketing print union members and residents