

The

SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST

1984

free!

SMASH THE STATE chronology

1984 - TWO POINTS OF VIEW

"1984: so many senseless arrests, police violence, imprisonment of good people. I saw my friends have their heads messed up by the pressure put on them by this disgusting system. But at the end of the year I still felt triumphant. I had been through many changes and faced many defeats, but the successes are what gave me the strength to continue fighting in 1985. For every defeat there was a victory, for every person who lost their liberty another got away scot free. We all fought hard; as the chronology shows, people had various ways of resisting our oppressors, some of which (the more violent) I cannot really condone. What I am aware of, however, is our common enemy: THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS WORLD WHICH ARE TRYING TO DESTROY US. If I fight peacefully, with love, I still cannot deny the satisfaction I feel inside when I hear of blacks beating back racist thugs; miners giving back the police some of their own treatment; hunt saboteurs fighting back against violent hunters.

Violence is terrible; I wish we (myself included) were all strong enough to fight just with love. But if I feel torn and undecided, the triumphs I know of, things in this chronology, keep me strong, keep me fighting.

Every victory leads to another victory; every defeat simply makes us more determined.

We will win, but we must never forget that there is nothing stronger than our LOVE."

Steve T.

"1984 = THAT WAS A (NOTHER) YEAR, THAT WAS!

So, 1984 was the year of Big Brother/Sister, eh? The year that had been popularly taken to represent state totalitarianism and repression. Well, from where I was sitting, it looked more like another year (and a particularly good one at that) of resistance and building. There is, of course, much to resist, much to fight against and to put right, and in 1984 we certainly did a lot of that. But whilst resisting the state, we are learning all the time. Learning what we are capable of; learning how to extend and gain control of our lives. 1984 brought to the public eye whole communities working together, supporting, feeding and defending each other. We've seen a massive response to the striking miners from outside groups and communities. Solidarity and mutual aid, squatting networks, food co-operatives, community groups, etc. have increased and grown in numbers everywhere.

The revolution is happening everyday, all around us. Let's carry on working and learning together.

Oh yeah - I nearly forgot - 1984 was also the year "Socialist Opportunist" came into being!"

GRAY.

January

2½ million ID cards made by Data Card Uk of Chichester are to be issued in 1984, with similar numbers being made each year.

30 arctic foxes are liberated from Cocksparrow Fur Farm near Nuneaton and £3/5,000 worth of damage is caused during an ALF (Animal Liberation Front) raid. 30 arctic foxes are also rescued from Bould Farm, Oxford.

A 38 year old man mysteriously dies while being held overnight at Camberwell Magistrates Court.

Riot in Peterhead Prison, Scotland causes £40,000 of damage.

Over 1000 people demonstrate in the snow against the new Hazleton vivisection laboratories in Harrogate, Yorkshire. Fences are ripped down and police constantly snow balled.

'Peoples Squat For Life' peace centre is opened by anarchists in Bradford, only weeks after another peace centre was opened in Bristol.

A seismic radioactive leak at Sellafield (Windscale) nuclear power station causes severe pollution on and around the coastline of Cumbria.

1500 people demonstrate at Cocksparrow Fur Farm. 600 police are deployed for the demo at a cost of £53000.

Two lorries belonging to Epping Meats ritual slaughterers of Bow, East London are burnt to the ground by the ALF with estimated damage of £50,000.

February

It is announced that 20,000 plastic bullets have been purchased by the police in England and Wales since the riots of 1981.

The ALF burn down the offices of the snare and pen making company Gilbertson and Page at Colney Heath near Hatesfield.

The Met Police are supplied with two British water cannons to test.

The Government bans trade unions at GCHQ, Cheltenham. Nearly all accept the £1000 offered in return for giving up their union.

Junior Service, a black singer from Brixton is arrested for a minor offence and beaten so badly by 2 cops that he has to have a 5 hour operation of his penis and testicles. He remained in hospital for a month under a 24 hour guard 'for his own protection'. He is arrested again in April and once more hospitalised by the police.

5 women go on hunger strike in Durham prison in protest at the harsh conditions of the control unit. They later call off their action when it becomes obvious that their demands will not be met.

52 rats due to be experimented on are rescued from Bromley College of Technology, Kent.

Police tape record interrogations for the first time at 6 police stations.

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7 slaughterhouses around the country are demonstrated against all on the same day.

A harecoursing meet is cancelled at Altcar, Lancs, due to the actions taken by hunt saboteurs.

More than 10,000 people are being held in prisons on remand in SE England.

March

The Class War 'Spring offensive against the rich' begins with 40 anarchists ruining many rich peoples evening (and clothes) as they arrive for the Horse and Hounds ball at the Grosvenor Hotel.

It is revealed that the water cannons currently being tested by police will have to be tested on live animals at Porton Down war research centre, Wilts.

A 160 feet high crane at a NATO bunker under construction at Naphill, High Wycombe is occupied for 2 days, as well as smaller cranes and a deep bunker. 4 people are arrested.

The Deputy governor of the Maze concentration camp near Belfast is assassinated.

19 winnins are arrested in a blockade of the military seminar in Piccadilly.

Ian McGregor announces the closure of 20 pits and loss of 20,000 jobs. The Miners Strike begins at Cortonwood, S Yorkshire. Within a week all the pits are shut in Yorkshire, S Wales and Lancashire as well as 8 out of 9 pits in Derbyshire, 10 pits in Scotland and over 1/2 the pits in Nottinghamshire. A national police force is co-ordinated in an attempt to conquer the pickets and soon 7000 police are mobilised.

The cruise missile convoy leaves Greenham Common for the first time.

It is announced that there are at least 131,000 empty houses in London.

A striking miner, Gareth Jones, is killed within 10 days of the strike, crushed during clashes with the police at a picket in Ollerton, Notts.

Hundreds protest at USAF base Upper Heyford by ripping down the fences and invading the base.

40 rats are rescued and £20,000 to £50,000 of damage is caused during an ALP raid on the Institute of Psychiatry in Camberwell, London.

A week of regional actions leading up to the London Stop The City protest on the 29th. In Bristol banks, insurance companys, porn shops, furshops jewellers and butchers are graffittied and glued up. 3 people are arrested the following day while leafletting, for suspicion of criminal damage. In Glasgow groups enter banks, the stock exchange, the army recruitment office and South African airlines. Leaflets are handed out all day, a road is blockaded and the council chambers surrounded before police horses split up the group. Many banks and cash card machines are glued up. 9 people are arrested. There is also a Stop The City in Manchester as well as other smaller ones around the country.

Sarah Tisdell is jailed for 6 months for leaking the arrival date of cruise missiles.

Effra Parade squats in Brixton are evicted by 200 riot police with armed police as back up. Barricades are built and bricks thrown at the police but after some hours the eviction is successful.

Wimin at Greenham Common block the cruise convoy from leaving the base, and some risk their lives by jumping in front of it while it is moving. It gets through after going on to a verge and smashing a road sign.

The second Stop The City of London is attended by at least 3,000 people. Actions include rampages down streets with many bank windows smashed and some cars trashed and/or turned over, leafletting and talking to workers, banks glued up and graffitied, smoke bombs, street theatre, music and dancing in the streets and free food. Severe disruption is caused all day with police losing control of whole areas at a time. Nearly 400 are arrested plus another 50 near Trafalgar Square when Whitehall is blockaded in an evening protest against cruise missiles.

April

1600 mink are liberated from Bednall Hall mink farm, Staffordshire.

A woman arrested at Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base, Scotland, is taken to Helensburgh police station where she receives 2 rolls, a cup of soup and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water in 30 hours.

The first wimin only picket of the miner's strike is held at Ollerton, Notts.

RUC constable John Robinson is cleared of murdering 2 unarmed men, at Belfast Crown Court, even though he admits a cover up.

The 'Urban Centre' squat in Leeds is evicted within a week.

Several sections of the peace camp at Greenham Common are evicted by 3-500 police and bailiffs, but the wimin stay.

The Police Federation confirm that the police on picket duty are getting £400/500 a week.

8 Asian men from Newham, E London are charged with affray and conspiracy to commit criminal damage after they defend themselves from a racist attack outside a pub. It was the 3rd racist attack in that area on that day and the police response was zero until the Asians started to fight back.

The terrifying AMAC I British made riot control vehicle (water cannon, 7000 volt electrified body, gun ports, grenade launchers etc), lost a £15 million deal with Chile when a construction workers union refused to build the display stand at the Aldershot weapons fair.

Nearly 1000 miners have been arrested in the first five weeks of the strike, $\frac{1}{2}$ of them in the Nottingham area.

Cirus Noor, an active member of the Colin Roach campaign, and in jail charged with possession of paraffin filled bottles, is certified under ^{section} 47 of

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of the Mental Health Act, allowing the state to hold him in a mental asylum indefinitely, because he refuses to take the control drug Largactil. (Due to protests it is later heard that he was only prepared for sectioning and finally that it is no longer necessary to section him)

A coal lorry is set alight at Grimthorpe Colliery, S Yorks.

£3500 worth of damage is caused at Strawbridge Colliery, Derbyshire.

Early April, about 100 people take part in a mass reclamation of the Clyde Submarine Base, Faslane to protest about the major evictions at Greenham Common peace camp. Some get through to offices and messes. 35 are arrested on various charges.

May

Knockabout Comics are on trial at the Old Bailey charged with 'Obscene Publications' and 'Conspiracy to break the 1971 Misuse Of Drugs Act'.

Mounted police break up a blockade of Hunterstone ore terminal on Clydeside to allow a convoy of lorries to leave for the Ravenscraig steelworks. 65 pickets are arrested and 5 injured.

People from Faslane Peace Camp occupy the roof of a 'public' meeting on the Trident missile programme, at a council building in Dumbarton, in protest against Trident. After some time on the roof they are dragged down by sailors and police and charged with breach of the peace !

8 bus loads of pickets on their way to Ravenscraig are stopped by Glasgow police and all 292 are arrested and charged with obstruction.

Striking miners occupy the S Wales coal board offices.

10,000 mainly women march against pit closures, in Barnsley.

Up to 10,000 people march for animal liberation in Central London.

A signal box is burnt down at a cost of 100,000 pounds on the line between Ollerton Colliery and High Marnham power station. An anarchist group calling themselves The Right To Work Action Group claim responsibility.

Mass fighting in Mansfield between pickets and police after a march. Soon 40 police are injured but after many miners have left, the police attack everyone and arrest 88. 55 are charged with riot.

There have been nearly 2000 arrests since the strike began 2 months ago. Afia Begum, from E London, is deported. The authorities say she has no right to be in England anymore after her husband dies in a fire.

A striking miner sees his son, a soldier on active service in Northern Ireland, dressed as a policeman on a picket line.

The fight against National Front organiser Patrick Harrington, a student at North London Poly, is stepped up. Students barricade themselves in the college to stop him receiving lectures, which leads to riot police smashing their way in.

A proposed Class War action at the Rose Ball, Grosvenor Hotel, London, is wrecked when demonstrators are outnumbered by more than 2 to 1 by police and

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surrounded.

Social Security for striking miners is cut in an attempt to force them back to work.

The pirate Sheffield Peace Radio is raided and silenced even though it was not interfering with other stations and pirate music stations in the area are left untouched.

The NUM and NCB meet for the first time, with no results.

A week of mass pickets and battles at Orgreave coking plant, S Yorks. On average about 4600 pickets a day try to block the plant entrance and are met by thousands of police, many in riot gear. There are many injuries on both sides, especially after cavalry charges by mounted police. Police eventually succeed in allowing convoys of coal lorries to enter.

A lorry used to deliver chickens for ritual slaughter at Bow, E London, is set alight and destroyed while parked in Hackney.

The Ministry of Defence plan to recruit 16,000 territorial troops for the use of strike breaking. It is hoped they will be ready by 1990.

4 Sheffield animal rights activists are charged with conspiracy to burn down a Leeds University Lab at their second appearance at Wetherby Magistrates Court.

Several 100 people attempt to stage an unco-ordinated Stop The City in London. They are met by over 600 police who manage to prevent any action except for a couple of ramp ages and the blocking of London Bridge for a few minutes. Over 100 people were nevertheless arrested.

June

A week of action against Shamrock monkey farm at Henfield near Brighton includes a camp outside the farm, a march by 500 people, the smashing up of the farm's vet's car and windows of his house, the takeover of a meeting involving the local Tory Euro MP and the occupation of Turners Airways who fly the monkeys to this country (but have since stopped). Shamrock farm keeps monkeys in appalling conditions and sells them for vivisection.

South African PM, PW Botha, comes to Britain to talk with Thatcher. 40,000 march through London in protest and 42 are arrested when the march attempts to go to the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square, but they are forced back by police.

20,000 miners and supporters march through London. Parliament is blockaded for a short time and police are beaten back when trying to make arrests. An army sergeant is seen and photographed driving a police van used during the march.

The police station at Maltby, S Yorks, comes under siege 2 nights in a row as crowds of about 200 bombard it with missiles.

The Economic Summit at Lancaster House in London, attended by Reagan, Thatcher and other Western leaders. Thousands blockade the roads around the summit making entering and leaving the building almost impossible. 214 are arrested and most are 'interned' in a warehouse in S London. Only 44 are charged. At one stage several hundred anarchists rampage through the West End with many buildings getting their windows smashed as police panick and indiscriminately attack people.

Blidworth pit village in Notts is entirely swamped by police for 3 days who seal off whole areas and threaten everyone with arrest if they attempt to go out. Phones are cut off and the whole community terrorised with little hope of any help.

Two members of Greenpeace UK manage to scale Big Ben and hang a huge banner saying 'Time to Stop Nuclear Testing' over the clockface. They remained there for a day before being arrested for breach of the peace on their way down!

The Ministry of 'Defence' in Whitehall is attacked by 5 Faslane peace campers with paint bombs causing around £6000 damage. Security locks are also glued up. They are charged with criminal damage and one with aiding and abetting when he was arrested later. The action was carried out to highlight sightings of troops at Faslane probably being deployed to Cyprus for intervention in Gulf War, which the peace campers feared could escalate into nuclear war.

The New World mink farms at Rochford Essex, which contained 15000 animals closes down after a 2 year campaign of direct action by Essex Animal Liberation.

Police ban the weekly picket of the South African Embassy after Botha's visit. In the weeks to come the picket strengthens and many ignore the ban by crossing the road to where the picket was originally, before being arrested for obstruction.

Molly's squated cafe opens in Upper Street Islington.

29 people secretly enter Upper Heyford airbase and splash paint all over the runway before being arrested. All except one were released without charge, the one being charged with criminal damage as he had red paint over his boots.

100 wimin picket Calverton pit, Notts. Clashes with police occur as the wimin block the road and 12 are arrested.

Due to the strike nuclear power stations are producing 20% of the electricity in England and Wales and at least 41% in Scotland, instead of the normal output of 11-14%.

Nottinghamshire police turn back nearly 2000 pickets in nearly 500 cars in one day.

South London Wimin's Hospital is occupied in resistance to its proposed closure at the end of July.

After a well attended peace festival, Boscombe Down peace camp is set up outside RAF/USAF Boscombe Down, a strategic nuclear air base.

July

Several thousand people take part in a mass trespass at Chilwell army depot (future USAF depot) near Nottingham. Hundreds break into the base and cause chaos to the police and army all day. About 150 are arrested but none are charged.

At a demonstration against Porton Down Microbiological (War) research establishment near Salisbury, fences are ripped down but thick lines of Mod police prevent anyone from getting in. After the demo, Boscombe Down peace camp is overrun by riot police.

It is reported that waste discharged from Sellafield Nuclear plant in Cumbria has the highest amount of radio active material of all waste in Europe - 69% higher than the international recommended level in 1981.

130 scaffolders occupy a destroyer and accommodation rig at Camel Laird shipbuilding yard, Birkenhead. 37 stay for 14 weeks but are gaoled for 28 days for contempt after police storm the rig.

Bible bashing Luis Palau has many of his sessions at QPR stadium disrupted by anarchists and other anti-religious people. On one occasion the pitch is invaded and a mock football match takes place before the demonstrators are taken away and arrested.

2000 prisoners are released in one day due to the new parole procedure which means longer sentences for prisoners doing several years.

The police use psychoanalysis for the first time in an attempt to catch a rapist who is thought to have attacked 15 times in 5 years in Notting Hill and Kensington.

The dock strike begins with most of Britain's main ports at a standstill. The strike begins at Immigration where British Steel used a non registered docker. It lasts 11 days with massive disruption as a consequence, including blockaded by lorry drivers.

The pit village of Herryworth near Pontefract W Yorks, is hit by rioting on several nights by 200 or so local youths. At one point the police station is surrounded and put under siege. Later the neighbouring village of Fitzwilliam is besieged by riot police who storm a pub and attack everyone in sight with their truncheons, before rampaging through the village.

500 mink are freed from 2 mink farms at Longbridge near Preston.

100,000 pounds of damage is caused during a sabotage attack on Kin sley riftmine near Fitzwilliam.

The Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, accepts a report by the Prison Department calling for 6 new special units (control units) to deal with between 150-200 disruptive, violent or 'calculatedly subversive' inmates who threaten the day to day running of the prison system.

5 people are gaoled for a week for picketing the South African embassy after bail conditions had been placed on them.

52 animal persecution shops are glued up in one night in the Maidstone and Sittingbourne area of Kent.

An office at the Central Electricity Generating Board's HQ in Newgate St London is occupied by about 20 people, mostly anarchists, in support of the miners strike and to draw attention to the increasing use of nuclear power during the strike. They are forcibly ejected after 40 minutes with no arrests.

Pickets take over and barricade Rossington pit, Doncaster, trapping 13 NCB managers inside for 10 hours before 500 police storm the pit and rescue them.

Striking miners blockade the Humber Bridge for several hours by stopping their cars at each end. They were on their way to a picket to a steel works in Scunthorpe but were turned back by police.

Thatcher remarks, at her own expense, that there are similarities between Argentinian fascists and British miners.

A mass picket at Bilston Glen, Scotland, attempts to stop 15 of the 1800 workforce from entering the pit. Confrontations between pickets and police develop with 28 arrests.

A man is shot dead by the IRA after being physically forced to become an informer while being held by the RUC.

The picket of the South African Embassy is found to be legal - the police were acting wrongly in banning the picket, declares magistrate Hopkin.

A peace camp, is set up at US spy satellite base at Menwith Hill, Yorkshire.

August

Nigel Lawson says that the £350 million spent on the miners strike so far is a 'worthwhile investment'.

On average 1000 people a day are in prison for non-payment of fines. A third of all women in prison are there for fine defaults.

Over 100 grouse shooting butts are destroyed on Peak Moors during a national action by the ALF.

A hit squad of 100 or so pickets smash up cars and a police van at Silverhill colliery, Notts, then travel 20 miles, bypassing a police station and overturning a police car, to Hanworth colliery where more damage is done and then finally to Doncaster where £2000 damage is done to the NCB offices.

About 400 people from all over the country disrupt the centre of Leeds, especially the financial institutions, in a Stop The City action. The day was a success with much damage caused, much interest from local people and confused police resorting to violence out of frustration in full view of shoppers. There were 108 arrests on the day. The following day 5 people from London were framed up for

going equipped to paint bomb and 2 of the wimin were charged with paint bombing Lloyds and Barclays banks.

5 coaches belonging to the NCB are ste alight and destroyed and an office block damaged at Thompson Engineering Works, Pleasley Vale, Derbyshire.

Over 200 shooting butts are destroyed by animal rights activists on the Derbyshire and S Yorkshire Moors.

RUC riot police fire plastic bullets from point blank range at a rally where Noraid leader Martin Galvin was due to speak in Andersonstown, Belfast. When Galvin, who the police were anxious to arrest, appears on the platform, the police storm the seated crowd with landrovers, truncheons and plastic bullets. The result is Sean Downes dead from being hit by a plastic bullet and many injured.

Over 50 plainclothes police with Firearms Warrants raid 4 squats and the I2I anarchist bookshop in Railton Rd, Brixton. They seem more interested in peoples identities than in finding firearms and arrest 3 people- one for having a cannabis plant, one for suspicion of theft (of her own tool box) and one for suspicion of breaking bail.

Bleach is put into animal tested shampoos in Hull. The bottles are marked and returned to the supermarkets which results in entire stocks being taken off the shelves.

According to the NCB over £1 million worth of damage has been done to their property during sabotage attacks since the strike began.

Streets are barricaded and petrol bombs thrown in West Belfast in response to the death of Sean Downes.

A nuclear reactor at Heysham power station in Lancashire is shut down for 10 weeks due to an operating mistake, costing the CEBB millions of pounds.

Riot police attack miners and their cars at Warsop, Derbyshire, causing injuries and extensive damage to cars.

Over 200 people take part in an Eastern Animal Liberation League raid on Unilever's vivisection centre in Bedford. Files are taken and the computer system smashed up at a cost of over £50,000. Unfortunately 42 people are arrested and charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

Friends of the Earth publish a report claiming that an accident at the proposed Sizewell B nuclear power plant would leave 1½ million people homeless for a year and the evacuation of Ipswich for 20 years.

An American aircraft delivers cruise convoy components to Greenham Common twice in one week.

3 miners return to work at Armthorpe colliery, S Yorks. The following day a burning barricade blocks the entrance in an attempt to stop them entering the pit. A decision is made for the police to 'retake' not just the pit entrance but the whole village. 52 van loads of riot police converge on the village from different directions and while their numbers are hidden, run wild through the village attacking anyone on the street and storming into peoples houses. The village is put on curfew from early morning till the afternoon with even ambulance and fire brigade not allowed to enter or pass through, even though many people were injured.

4 loyalist prisoners begin a hunger strike at Magilligan prison co. Londonderry, in an attempt to force the segregation of inmates.

The second dock strike of the summer begins with many ports on the Dock Labour Scheme on strike, but support is much weaker than during the July strike.

The South Eastern Animal Liberation League raid the Downe Labs of the Royal College of Surgeons and make a video film showing evidence of experiments on monkeys, which is then shown on ITN.

All the charges against more than 100 people arrested for obstruction outside the South African Embassy are dropped after a magistrate found the police were actually illegally.

Striking miners occupy a transporter bridge in Newport, S Wales in an attempt to stop iron ore and coal being shipped up the River Usk to British Steels' strip mill at Llanwern. The bridge is stormed by police who arrest all involved.

About 400 demonstrators blockade USAF base Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, and manage to keep the base closed all day. Over 100 are arrested and charged with obstruction. The demo was in support of 9 peace campers who have been charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

Pickets occupy a jetty at the Port Talport steel works and take control of 3 cranes in order to prevent 90,000 tons of American coal being unloaded.

A riot breaks out in the centre of Woolwich, SE London after a day of mass policing.

September

CHAC the London housing aid centre, report that 2.7 million people in London are without a satisfactory home and that 100,000 more houses are needed.

8 rabbits are rescued at Kings Cross station while on their way to be experimented on at Dundee University.

12 Clydeside anarchists storm the Glasgow HQ of Price Waterhouse Accountants, the firm who sequestrated the S Wales Miners funds. They take over the whole of the 13th floor and barricade themselves in using metal sheeting. 2 60 foot long banners are draped on the outside of the building, saying 'Glasgow Backs The Miners', and 'Unemployed Solidarity'. After nearly 9 hours they leave, having been assured that no-one will be arrested, but on leaving all are arrested and charged with breach of the peace and malicious damage.

The Royal College of Physicians reports that 9 out of 10 of the 2000 or so people 100 years old or more, are women.

The national campaign for the homeless, Shelter, report that squatting is increasing, particularly in London, and that homeless people are turning to squatting in desperation.

21 people die of food poisoning in a psychiatric hospital in Wakefield after 'beef' is left unrefrigerated.

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Northern Ireland, demands that the medical reports of all people questioned by the RUC in the last two months at Castlereagh holding centre, Belfast and the Gough barracks detention centre in Armagh, be made public after a large number of assaults on prisoners by the police.

The CEBG is blamed for not preventing acid rain, by a committee of MP's.

Police and striking miners clash at a mass picket of Kellingley colliery, N Yorks, resulting in injuries on both sides.

The squatted anarchist bookshop in Albany St, Euston is evicted by sledgehammer wielding riot police.

41 peace activists enter Upper Heyford USAF bomber base by pulling the emergency cord on an early morning train while it passed by the base. Slogans are painted all over the main runway before all are arrested, but over half are released without charge.

The Northern Non-Violent Direct Action Group occupy two offices of the North Eastern Electricity Board HQ in Newcastle in opposition to the siting of a nuclear power station at Druridge Bay. They are ejected after about half an hour.

The dock strike comes to an end after agreement on coal quotas at Ravenscraig.

Riot police are attacked by pickets using catapults at Maltby colliery, S Yorks. The police retaliate by making surprise attacks from the woods. An MP and an ITN reporter are amongst those attacked.

The hunger strike by 30 loyalist prisoners in Magilligan prison

is called off after 30 days while negotiations go ahead.

Flying pickets are present on all 35 M4 bridges between Port Talbot and Llanwern steel works. The convoy of coal lorries are pelted with stones and other missiles, damaging ten vehicles.

The 10 day national wimin's strike, where all wimin are encouraged to give up whatever they normally do. A major demonstration is also planned at Greenham to coincide with the strike and although as many as 5000 wimin are there at one time the numbers present are less than expected.

Hundreds of miners attack the nuclear power station at Hartlepool. Two tankers are damaged and burning roadblocks set up.

An estimated 2000 people attempt to Stop the City of London again but are met by at least 1000 police who arrest anyone caught in groups of three or more. Some actions are successful but there are 500 arrests although only 35 people are actually charged. Perhaps the best event of the day was the move by a couple of hundred people from the city to the West End. With few police around they freely rampage through Soho and Oxford St, leaving a trail of damage behind them.

The miners strike has cost the British Steel Corporation £93 million so far.

October

The international week of protests against factory farming includes the occupation of the roof of Marshalls chunky chicken factory in Coatbridge, near Glasgow. After half an hour 13 people are arrested for of the peace.

Stop the City in Birmingham only attracts a couple of hundred people. The night before many shops and banks are graffitied and glued up, but the day was a flop with police outnumbering demonstrators. There were many arrests including a van load of people from London who were stopped and surrounded virtually as soon as they arrived in Birmingham the night before. Some are locked up for three days and are all charged with going equipped to cause criminal damage.

The NUM are fined £200,000 for contempt, at the High Court.

The IRA bomb the hotel used by the Conservative party during their Brighton conference. Over 30 people are injured and 5 killed including one MP. The Cabinet however, miraculously survived, with only the fatal injury of Norman Tebbit against them. Despite the fact that thousands of police are present in Brighton, no one is caught, and it is thought that the bomb was planted some weeks, or even months in advance.

The head of the anti-terrorist squad warns that an IRA unit could strike again, as part of a new bomb campaign in Britain.

In the first 7 months of the miners strike there has been 7,223 arrests. Of those nearly 6,000 have been charged. Of these nearly 4,000 have not yet been tried and 3,753 miners have been given conditional bail, such as only to picket their own pits, or in some cases home curfews. One court alone, Mansfield, Notts, has dealt with 2,000 miners and has had to have regular sittings to midnight.

The pit deputies union NACODS announce they are to strike. It is called off at the last minute.

7 women occupy the Curzon porn cinema near Turnpike Lane, London and manage to disrupt the cinema and get the film turned off for nearly half an hour. They refuse to leave when the police arrive and are arrested—all charged with breach of the peace and 2 of the women have extra charges of assaulting a PC and criminal damage put on them. All the women are taken from Tottenham police station to Paddington Green in West London (the most secure police station in the country used especially for those charged under the provisions of terrorist act), where they are held overnight. The 2 women who were charged with the extra fabricated charges are remanded for a few days. The other 5 women are bound over.

The first of what was to become a regular picket of two ritual slaughterhouses in Spitalfields East London, attracts over 300 people.

In a speech the head of the Met, Kenneth Newman reports that there have been many mini riots in London already this year and on about 50 occasions events could have led to major disturbances, but these were eventually quashed by police.

The arrest of people taking coal from a stockpile leads to 3 nights of rioting in Grimethorpe, S Yorks. On the second night the police station was attacked and had to be evacuated by the two police inside who escaped through the back, but were caught and set upon.

Work begins on a £300 million production line for making nuclear warheads at Aldermaston atomic weapons research establishment.

Nearly 1000 police have been injured so far in the miners strike.

Due to a public outcry over the famine in Ethiopia, the government makes a token gesture and sends some food aid.

6,700 people are in prison waiting to be tried. Of these 50 have been on remand for over 1½ years.

25,000 people march through Barrow in Furness on the annual

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march.

The South Eastern Animal Liberation League attack four places at the same time-2 labs^{of} Wickham Labs Ltd, Cabbage Patch Kennels and the home of the managing director David Walker. A video they took is shown on ITN. Thousands of pounds of damage was caused but 17 people were remanded for a week, charged with conspiracy to rob.

An MOD bunker at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire is damaged during national protests against Operation Warman, an exercise by the Royal Observer Corps. 10 people are arrested. At Alexandra Palace Park in N London, the bunker was occupied by protestors, bringing disruption to the exercise which ended 4 hours early.

The discovery of an asbestos dump at Faslane Submarine base delays construction of port facilities for Trident submarines.

A full nuclear cruise convoy leaves Greenham Common, in daylight for the first time, and heads towards Salisbury Plain for practices. Meanwhile police and bailiffs evict several parts of the peace camp but the wimin still remain.

Sikhs in Southall hold street parties to celebrate the assassination of Mrs Gandhi.

The Greenwich Police Sub-Committee Support Unit publish a report revealing a riot training centre and holding centre. Cops are trained everyday in the use of all riot control techniques and the centre can accomodate up to 1000 cops if necessary.

A petrol bomb is thrown at the police station in Teignmouth, Devon.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is made law, although it will not come into use for a year as training has to be completed.

November

The month of action at Fas Lane submarine base includes many varied actions in and out of the base.

The campaign against Namibian Uranium Contracts co-ordinates national protests against Namibian Uranium imports for the Trident missile programme. The protests are held in Manchester city centre British Nuclear Fuels Ltd uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst, Chester, BNF headquarters at Risley, Warrington, Springbells uranium and fuel fabrication plant, Preston, and the nuclear reactor at Chapelcross, Dumfries.

The official start of the fox hunting season is seriously disrupted with over 25 hunts hit by Sabs. In many cases a kill wasn't made all day due to the effective action of the sabs.

A peaceful demonstration at Cocksparrow silver fox breeding farm

near Nuneaton by about 1000 people is violently broken up by mounted police who continually shove the trapped demonstrators down a narrow lane.

A day of action in support of the miners is called for Nov. 5th. A group of anarchists in Bedford occupy Radio Chiltern and force staff to make a statement in support of the strike. They escape before the police arrive. The main branch of the Halifax Building Society in Bradford is occupied for a short time with no arrests. Members of the Direct Action Movement and other anarchists picket Price Waterhouse accountants in Manchester for 7 hours and then briefly occupy part of the offices before escaping without arrest. The DHSS headquarters in Elephant and Castle has plate glass windows smashed and 'Pay the miners' daubed on the building.

Nearly 50 miners have so far been sentenced to prison since the dispute began. This number rises to over 100 by December.

A new Social Services review plans to take away the automatic right of teenagers to supplementary benefit.

Thomas Power becomes the first prisoner in modern British legal history to be held on remand for 1000 days. This is equivalent, with remission, to a prison sentence of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years. Power was originally charged in Belfast after evidence was given by four super "grasses", who later retract their evidence. He is now charged with murdering a policeman after evidence given by a fifth supergrass, an INLA member serving life for 5 murders. It is possible he could serve the equivalent of a 10 year sentence by the time his trial has finally been completed.

An NCB computer at the Exploration Unit near Doncaster is sabotaged and the building with everything in it severely wrecked, causing £250000 worth of damage.

20 women take over the pit head baths at Cynheidre Pit, Llanelli, and successfully stop scabs working throughout the night and next day.

Workers at Austin Rover car plant in Cawley and Longbridge go on strike over pay.

370 women machinists at Fords in Dagenham and Hazlewood go on strike in demand of 'upgrading'. Within 5 days 7600 workers are temporarily laid off due to the strike.

The NCB claims that the strike is crumbling as 800 men go back to work.

It is announced that the control log of the submarine Conqueror, which sank Argentine cruiser the Belgrano, is missing, and no-one seems to know where it could be!

A lone scab returns to work at Cortonwood, the pit where the strike

started. 4000 pickets are met by 1000 riot police who have to retreat when a work hut is rolled towards them and burning barricades are set up.

At Dinnington, South Yorks, the police station is evacuated after two petrol bombs are thrown at it. The cavalry are thwarted as wire has been tied up across roads throughout the village.

A group of women smash up an 'art' exhibition and the plate glass windows of Leeds polytechnic. The exhibition consists of sculptures such as a naked woman wedged into a fridge. They are arrested and held for several days.

300 blacks march through Liverpool and wreck a council meeting in protest against the choice of Sam Bond, a building surveyor, as head of the new race relations unit.

A cruise convoy leaves Greenham Common for practise and is tracked down and followed to Longmoor Camp, Liss, Hampshire, where a peace camp and 'reception committee' are immediately set up until it returns to Greenham. Many arrested women are taken to a specially built 5 foot deep round pit surrounded by barbed wire and forced to stay in it until being questioned and released.

4 prisoners who challenged the legality of the new parole policy lose their appeals in the House of Lords.

An 18 year old man from York who miaowed at a police dog is charged with using threatening and abusive words and behaviour and bound over in the sum of £100 to keep the peace for 2 years.

The ALF spike several Mars Bars with rat poison and send them to the media with warning notes enclosed. Several are also found by people who bought them, which results in 3 million Mars Bars being taken off the shelves and checked. It turns out to be a hoax as all the ones found in shops with warning notes enclosed are free of poison. This action was taken in protest against tooth decay experiments conducted on monkeys by Mars, at Guy's hospital.

The remaining 17 striking miners of the 3500 strong workforce of the 4 pits of the South Derbyshire area reveal that death threats and assaults are a daily worry, especially as they receive no help from the police.

Rats and frogs being used in experiments are rescued from Bromley college of technology, Kent, in the second successful raid there this year.

It is announced that a second flight of 16 cruise missiles has been deployed at Greenham Common. Whitehall is blockaded the following night in protest.

Burning barricades are erected and riot police pelted with missiles as 5 miners go back to work at Marine colliery, near Abertillery, Gwent.

Two police are jailed for a year in Manchester for assault after they beat up a man down a dark alley and remove his glasses, hearing aid, wig and shoes and socks.

A prison van taking 3 men from Maidstone prison to the Isle of Wight is held up in Reigate, Surrey, by a masked gang armed only with clubs, who free their comrades with injury to no-one.

2 brothers aged 12 and 15 are crushed to death while digging for coal on a railway embankment at Goldthorpe pit village, S. Yorks. They were planning to sell coal to save up money for Christmas presents.

£100000 of damage is caused at Wheldale pit when the control room is smashed up, electrical equipment damaged and cars overturned. The approach road to the pit is covered in burning oil to stop police getting to the scene of the sabotage.

250000 students take part in a national day of action in protest at the planned increase in parental payment for grants and fees. The day includes occupations and blockades around the country.

One night in Yorkshire (Nov 21) clashes between locals and police in Goldthorpe. Trenches are dug across the pit entrance road at Kinsley near Hens worth and barricades built and set on fire. Railway lines are thrown from a bridge into the road beneath and a police Range Rover is stoned at Hickleton. Also there are clashes with barricades built and police vehicles stoned at Askern and South Elmsall where disguised pickets ambush a police convoy and bombard it with bricks and ball-bearings fired from catapults.

A woman and here two children die in a fire at a hotel owned by London Lets, the company who put up many of Camden's homeless families. Other families living in the same kind of conditions converge on Camden Town Hall to demand a public inquiry, but they are refused and so occupy the council chamber and say they will stay until they are rehoused.

Eight women break into the base and occupy a mobile cruise launched at Greenham. They are arrested after 15 minutes and soon released, except one who has a warrant out for non-payment of fines.

The strike at Austin Rover is over when workers vote to return after accepting a pay offer.

Supplementary Benefit for families of striking miners is cut by £1.

More than 2000 students rampage through Glasgow. Mounted police are used to split them up, and 12 arrests are made.

Parliament, Whitehall and Downing Street are blockaded by thousands of students after a 30000 strong rally on the South Bank. 3 bridges are closed to traffic and much of central London is brought to a stand still. 180 people are arrested, but most are not charged.

18

Two students from the Polytechnic of North London, Steve Tasane and John Latham are jailed till the end of college term in 2½ weeks for contempt of court, after refusing to stop picketing against NF organiser Harrington.

Two persons aged 18 and 20 escape while being transported to court in Bristol when a car holds up the vans they are in.

A taxi driver is killed when a concrete post and block are thrown from a bridge on to his car while he is taking a scab miner to work at Merthyr Vale colliery, Mid Glamorgan. 2 striking miners are soon arrested plus another later, and charged with murder.

Peace campers at Faslane peace camp stop the Polaris Nuclear Warhead convoy for a few minutes at Garelochhead. They are dragged away and charged with breach of the police.

December

Several hundred peace activists take part in a mass trespass at USAF base Alconbury. Many get into the base, which is severely disrupted all day.

At Elscar near Barnsley, barricades are set up, oil is spread across the road, a tipper is set alight, a railway crossing is immobilized, fences are torn down, the main gate to the NCB workshops is wired up and police reinforcements retreat when confronted by a stone throwing crowd.

Ace Kelly, chair of the Hackney and Stoke Newington Defence Campaign an offshoot of the Colin Roach campaign, is in court charged with two assaults on police, obstruction and breach of the peace, after being arrested in June for alleged kidnapping of a 2½ year-old girl, even though his daughter, who was with him at the time, and who the police thought was the kidnap victim, is 6 years old. This happened the day before a picket of the Home Office prison department in protest at the sectioning of Cyrus Noor, an active Colin Roach campaign member (see April). Ace is obviously totally innocent, so the charges of assault and obstruction are thrown out of court, with the breach of the peace trial in January.

Five people from Fas Lane peace camp manage to stop the Polaris missile convoy by jumping in front of it. One grabs hold of the bumper and refuses to let go but is eventually dragged off by a number of police.

Since the start of the miners strike up to December 7th 8731 miners have been arrested and 7249 charged. Just over half have had their cases heard, mostly breach of the peace and obstruction. 104 have been sentenced to prison, but most of the serious charges are not due to be heard till after the new year.

Friends of the Earth accuse the CEEGB of lying over its involvement in producing acid rain that has destroyed life in many lakes in Scandinavia.

The Met police lengthen the period of introductory firearms training from one week to two. 4000 of London's police are already qualified in the use of guns.

Price Waterhouse accountants, who have been requested to seize all the NUM's funds because of the £200000 fine the union refused to pay, find nearly £8 million in banks in Dublin, Luxemburg and Zurich. They fail however to seize the funds, even though it later emerges that the government has paid over £30000 to help them find it.

The National Council for Civil Liberties publishes a report stating that police behaviour during the miners strike has led to serious violations of civil liberties.

Patrick Harrington, the NF organiser and student of PNL suggests that black people should be denied civil liberties, during a TV interview. David MacDowall, the director of the college later resigns mainly because he cannot bring himself to make an official complaint against Harrington, even after much pressure from ILEA.

The NCB has lost at least £60 million because of underground damage at pits, due to the strike. So far 23 coal faces have been lost as well as 11 salvage faces (areas where production has finished and equipment is waiting to be removed). 19 other faces are giving cause for "serious concern" while 64 are of "concern".

The National Union of students decide not to give £20000 to striking miners at their annual conference.

The Home Secretary Leon Brittan admits that the phone tapping and mail opening of CND members is illegal unless it will help police detect serious crime, such as subversive, terrorist or espionage activity that could injure national interest, but it refuses to condemn it.

Women from mining communities have set up the National Women's Organisation with the aims of achieving total victory in the dispute, to strengthen the women's groups that have grown out of the strike and to build a permanent support network to organise in all issues that affect the mining communities.

It is revealed that a card containing rules of engagement for soldiers guarding nuclear installations includes orders that demonstrators should be shot if they are a threat to the nuclear weapons store and that they may also be shot while running away, if violence has been used and that is the only possible method of arrest. American soldiers in Britain have the power to shoot demonstrators interfering with non-nuclear equipment as well.

A group of anarchists call for a national anti-prison. Pickets are held outside at least 3 London prisons and elsewhere.

£440 million is to be spent on "law and order" next year in Northern Ireland. The RUC get an additional £6.6 million to increase their strength by 500 and £6 million more will be spent on prisons than during this year.

92 peace campaigners are arrested when they blockade Whitehall on the fifth anniversary of Nato's decision to deploy cruise in Western Europe.

The ALF poison a supermarket turkey with mercury in Grimsby. No-one is risked as the media are contacted before the shop opens. 4 people are arrested.

Members of the Hunt Retribution Squad desecrate the grave of Lord Beaufort, a long time huntsman. They fail, however, to steal his rotting corpse.

The miners strike remains strong into the New Year, ten months since it began. An estimated 140000 are still on strike.

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