


Picket no.21

Sunday 27th July, 1986

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

Casuals Strike Committee
of Sogat Central Branch
March from Clerkenwell Green
Wednesday 30th July, 1pm to Wapping

2nd August, National Women's Demo
All pickets welcome, from Tower Hill

9th August, Residents March
9pm from Glamis Road

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

Saturday, 19th July

Thousands rallied to march to Wapping Saturday night showing the continued vitality, determination and persistence and combativity of the strikers despite massive arrests and a wobbly leadership. The march proceeded undaunted and in good spirits up to the thin blue slime across The Highway at Breezer's Hill where police were poised for an attack. A large number of pickets congregated at Wellclose and another at Thomas More. Other small groups began to pass through the numerous police roadblocks and patrols all over the area, to reach Glamis Road.

About 12.15pm 100-150 set out from King David Lane for a march along Commercial Road with the Stereo banner. Picked up more along the way. Then saw a scab white van coming in the opposite direction. With the cops low in numbers and struggling to keep up it looked like a good chance to stop the van. Many of the marchers surged forward. Three pickets stopped the car in front of the scab van. A few missiles hit the van but the cops pushed forward and managed to get it back onto the other side of the road. The steward was not helpful. The march continued but a cop van blocked the way and moved the procession off the road. Regrouped at Wellclose where police pushed pickets off the road.

Invaluable picketing experience is being gained.

Wednesday, 23rd July, 181st day of the strike

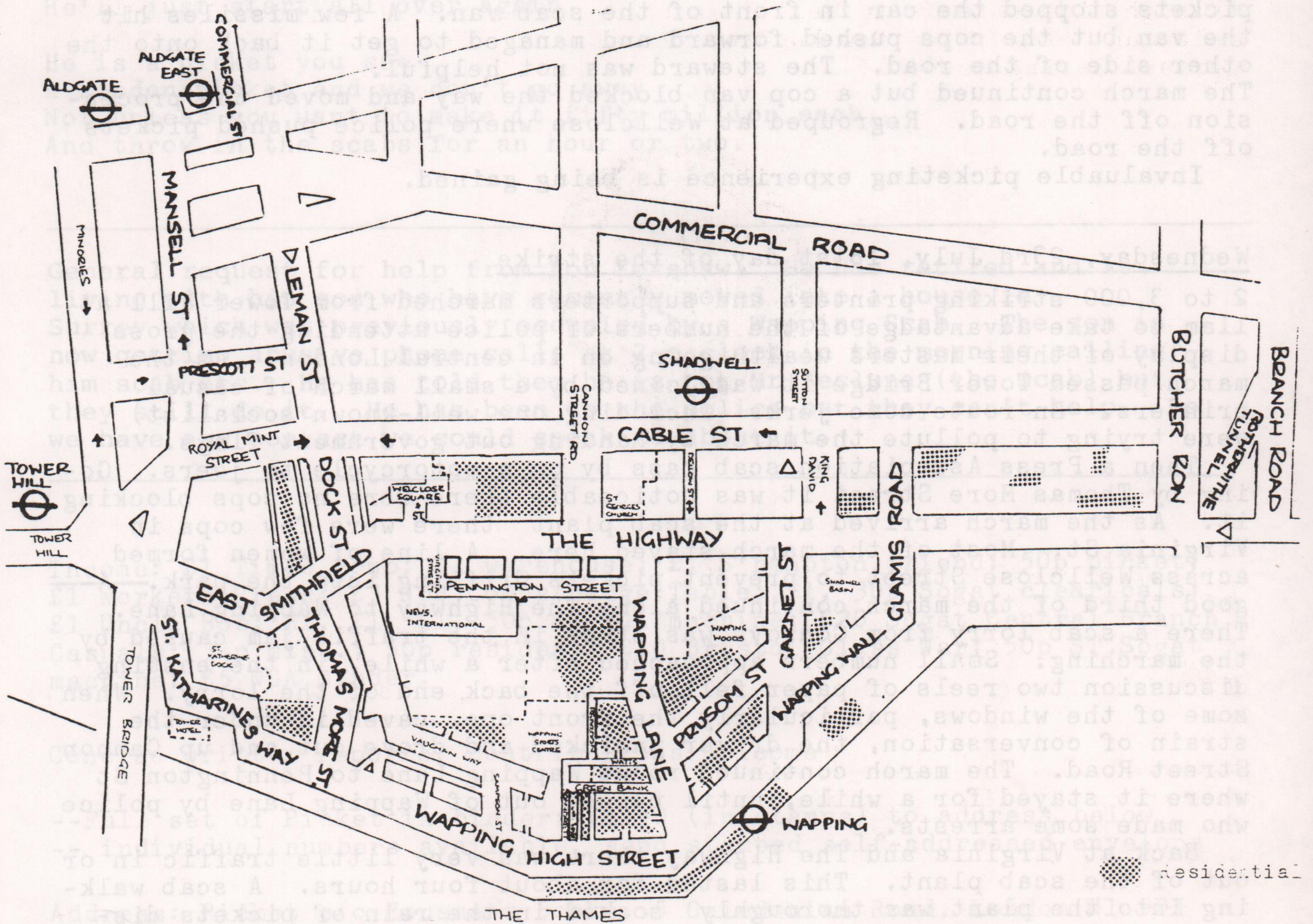
2 to 3,000 striking printers and supporters marched from Tower Hill at 11am to take advantage of the numbers of police attending the gross display of their masters wealth going on in central London. As the march passed Tower Bridge it was joined by a small march of casual printers. En route some jerks (including one well-known socialist) were trying to pollute the march by handing out government flags.

Then a Press Association scab pass by on a motorcycle to jeers. Going by Thomas More Street it was noticeable there were no cops blocking it. As the march arrived at the scab plant there were few cops in Virginia St. Most of the march stayed here. A line of women formed across Wellclose Street to prevent pickets drifting into the park. A good third of the march continued along The Highway to Wapping Lane. There a scab lorry from Convoys was stuck in the traffic jam caused by the marching. Small numbers approached after a while, in the ensuing discussion two reels of paper fell off the back end of the lorry. When some of the windows, particularly the front one, caved in under the strain of conversation, the driver panicked and drove out and up Cannon Street Road. The march continued round Wapping Lane to Pennington St where it stayed for a while, until pushed out of Wapping Lane by police who made some arrests.

Back at Virginia and The Highway there was very little traffic in or out of the scab plant. This lasted for about four hours. A scab walking into the plant was thoroughly soaked in the rain of pickets disgust after he tried to provoke. The Wapping Lane march marched back to

join the rest of the picket. At about 3pm police began to try to clear The Highway for traffic. At 4pm a march of several hundred from Tower Hill arrived behind the banner of the Lesbian and Gays support the Printers. As it approached the seven police horses present plus foot support rode into the rear of the march, onto the pavement and into Ensign St to try to break up the march. Some arrests were made but some arrests were prevented as the pickets showed little fear of the horses and great mobility. Two horses which rode up the alley into the rear of Wellclose Square were driven out the determined counter thrust of large number of pickets in the park. Eventually as more and more police reinforcements arrived from the spectacle in the City they were able to clear The Highway. A rock concert began in the park.

In the evening the 63rd march to Wapping was a morale booster. 800-1000 took part. While milling around at Tower Hill two plain clothes were spotted one sporting a grey suit and carnation the dark suited one scarperrred the grey one was subject to a few kicks and spit and a hail of abuse. He was then escorted to a police car as the march moved off the police moved into the march after someone. The police were surrounded. They were kicked punched and spat at. Three police one female were cut off from the main body and were subject to more good nature from pickets. There were quite a few souvenirs taken on this escapade.

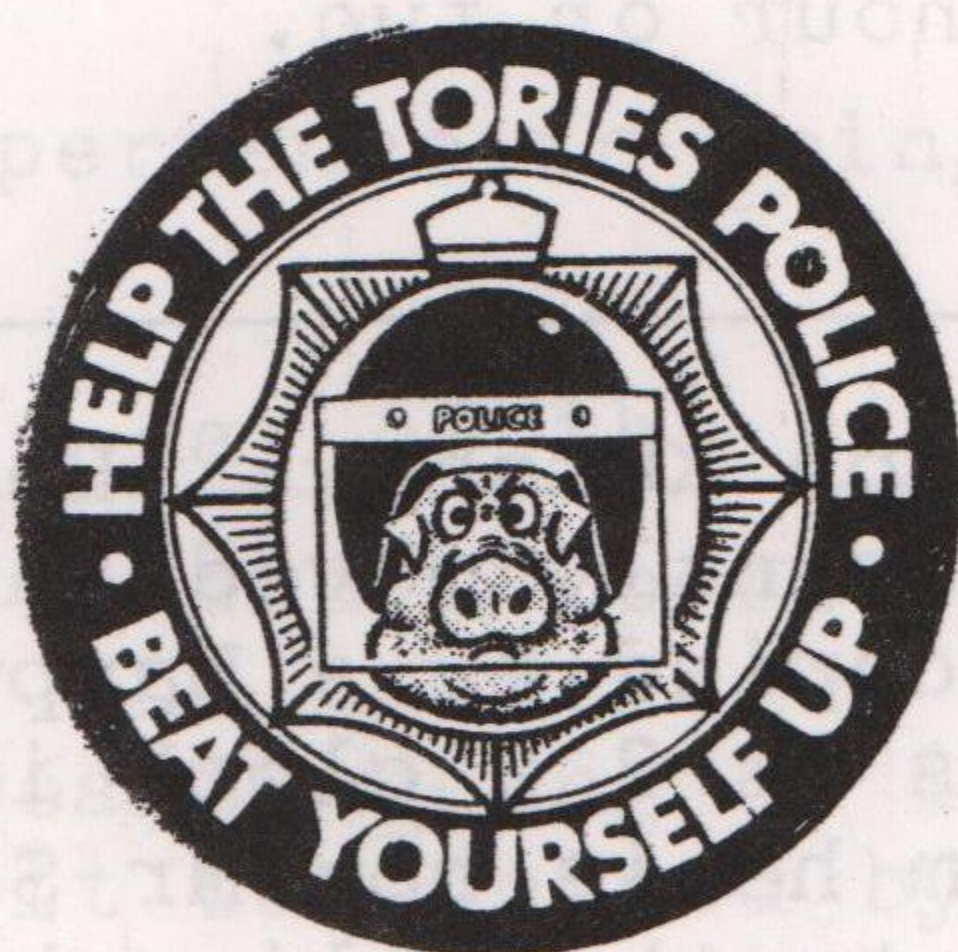




Saturday night, 26th July

A few thousand strikers and supporters marched off from Tower Hill past Wapping and straight out to Glamis Road. Hundreds stayed at Thomas More Road with smaller numbers at other scab routes. Just before 11pm several hundred were taken off Virginia to Thomas More. Minutes later three scab lorries left via Pennington/Wapping Lane/Cannon St Rd, right up the middle. Seven scab lorries including one without a trailer left around midnight via Glamis Road after police strikebreakers cleared the road of residents and pickets to make way for the ununiformed scabs.

Another convoy of a few scab lorries about lam, which exited via the same route, was bricked up on Commercial Road. Also a march of a few hundred was taking place along Commercial Road from the east, picking up more marchers along route. This march finally arrived back at Wellclose to find The Highway had been cleared by police who tried to encircle the march which turned around towards Tower Hill and back through side streets to Wellclose where police were trying to hem in a reluctant crowd of a few hundred pickets, to find news of another juggernaut having been hit.



Notes:

- J. Heron, a former F.O.C. of Times Editorial Assistants who became Manager 18 months ago is now working happily in Wapping, 12 Lonhton Grove, Sydenham, 659-6469.
- Police at Gray's Inn Road are trying to provoke pickets by ignoring scabs who give single finger sign and say piss off and shaking the water on pickets.
- Good attendance at meetings is achieved when decisions are to be made.

letter from a picketing resident

Picketing King David Lane/Cable St is pointless. The same exit can be blocked at Sutton St/Commercial Rd. More pickets, more marches along Commercial Rd. Even if we are there, the cops will still have to guard The Highway. Stretch them out. There are more of us than them so if we stretch them out, gaps will appear in their lines before ours.

The Wapping Method

There was a boy in blue who didn't know what to do
When met by a man who just wouldn't scam
Although he'd been bashed black and blue.

He looked on in utter amazement as the man rose again from the floor
I'm battered and bleeding the man said
But I'm still coming back here for more.

The young buck in blue was quite staggered
They hadn't taught him this ploy
It's one mighty crack of the truncheon, Good night and be a good boy.

But this man is made out of iron cast in a mould that years old
He was cast by a man named Watt Tyler
A tough nut, or so I am told.

The boy blue can't really believe it
This bastard must really be mad I've hit, and pinched and kicked him
But he's still coming back here for more.

The horses are right up behind me The riot squad to left and to right
But this bastard is still wanting to fight
Fuck Wapping and fuck Rupert Murdoch
Fuck pickets the large and the small the blue boy is ranting and raving
The iron man is just standing tall
They have taken the boy blue away now and wrapped him in pads and a
cell. Fuck pickets and fuck Rupert Murdoch is all that the poor boy
can yell.
The iron man still stands at Wapping, he's now on to boy blue number ten
And when he has driven him barmy
He'll just start all over again

He is a picket you see
A London picket and we don't go away
Not unless you want to make it fifty million each
And throw in the scabs for an hour or two.

General request for help from Ron Kershaw. He has retired and is living with his son who have recently moved into a house in Surrey which was previously occupied by a Wapping Scab. The son is now getting abusive phone calls at 2 o'clock in the morning calling him scab etc. He has told them he is not Mr Secluna (the scab) but they still do it. He has been to the police but they can't help. Do we have any contact we could speak to about it.-

Income: £1 Times comp; £1 warehouse; £1 S'hampton friend; 50p picket; £1 Workers Press; £3 NoW Comps/Badge Table; £1, 30p Sogat clearicals; £1 Uncle Bob; £1, £1, £1, 50p ST NGA machine; £20 Sogat Central Branch Casuals; 34p misc.; 50p resident; £10 Bristol Class War; 50p ST Sogat machine; £5 NGA minder.

Concise written reports, contributions welcome

--Full set of Picket in binder; £1.50 (in stamps) to address below
-- individual numbers available, send stamped self-addressed envelope

Address: Picket c/o Housmans Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX
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