



Continuing our regular look at history:

Women start the Russian Revolution

IN PETROGRAD in Russia in 1917, in the midst of world war, women textile workers decided to celebrate International Women's Day on February 23rd.

One local Bolshevik factory organiser told the women to refrain from strike action. Despite this, meetings took place the next day, and a mass of women marched to the Municipal Duma, the puppet parliament set up by the Tsar's regime, to demand bread. The soldatki, the wives, daughters and mothers of soldiers, left the massive bread lines and raised banners demanding bread and saying "Our children are starving".

Joined by housewives and women textile workers of the Vyborg district, they swarmed over the bridges on the River Neva towards the centre of town. The women of the trolley terminus on Vasilev Island joined them, as they visited the nearby infantry barracks to get the pledge of the soldiers that they would not fire if they came out on strike. 90,000 workers, both women and men, started to come out on strike, as the women textile workers went to the large metal factories calling on the men to join them.

The following day, numbers in the street had risen to 197,000. Women went up to the officers, taking hold of their rifles and demanding: "Put down your bayonets and join us". By February 26th women were going up to the soldiers' ranks in masses and taking their guns. The Russian Revolution was unfolding, and the Bolsheviks and all the other socialist parties were taken completely by surprise.

In spite of centuries of deeply-ingrained submissiveness and fatalism, working women got off their knees and were to start one of the most important events in human history. After World War had come Revolution.

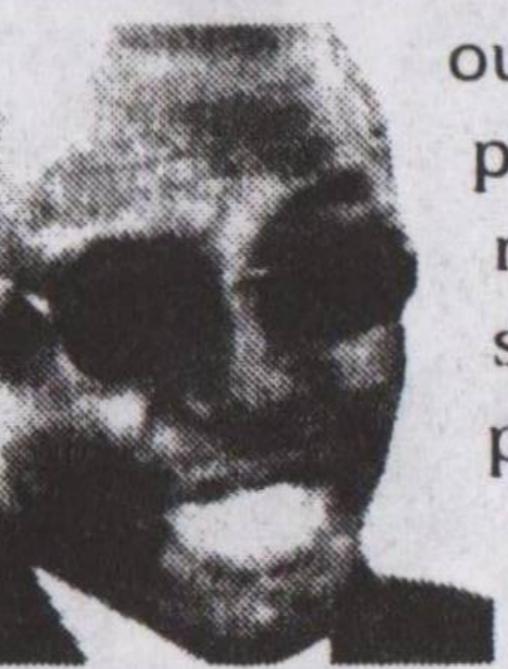
For more on the history of the Russian revolution read "The Russian Tragedy" by Alexander Berkman. Available from AK distribution, PO Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE or www.akuk.com for £4.50 plus 60p postage and packing. ★

**Against the terror of
capitalism, governments
and religious bigotry**

Anarchist Federation
www.afed.org.uk
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CELEBRITY PRAT OF THE MONTH

Here at **resistance** we refuse to be intimidated by the threat of terrorists and state terrorists. So it's back to normal with our regular column on famous arseholes.



Fashanu: Prat

AS THE disparities of money obtainable under capitalism come ever more to depend on 'status', they move far beyond the bounds of basic common decency when it comes to celebrity, profit and property. Television presenter, John Fashanu, lured a homeless man off a London street with a bribe of £300 to stand for two nights in a huge queue so that he (Fashanu) could bid a *million pounds* on a two-bedroomed flat.

Obviously the irony escaped the dumb, or perhaps he's just insanely insensitive, Fashanu: here's a fellow human being with-

out a roof over his head and no prospect of regular shelter or even a hot meal, and Fashanu sees fit to splash a seven figure sum on a property he doesn't need and will likely spend very little time in.

What sort of a society is it that, not only permits, but positively encourages such offensive inconsistencies to take place in its name? Not only that, as if Fashanu's self-delusions of superiority had barely surfaced, he goes on to humiliate the itinerant street-dweller by gloating: "I put down polythene for the man to sit on in my Mercades. I told him to sit in line and not to move whatever he did." Frankly, we're only surprised the crassly arrogant Fashanu didn't insist the poor bloke travel inside the boot of his fancy, but ultimately useless (on London's streets anyway), limo! ★

NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR

ON THE day the bombing of Afghanistan started protesters took to the streets. 50 people gathered at Trafalgar Square while 100 held a peace vigil opposite Downing Street. A group went through Trafalgar Square to Whitehall, then to Parliament Square chanting "No War but the Class War". The constantly moving demo kept police confused until dispersing into nearby side streets.

On October 11th, about 20 people invaded and occupied the armed forces recruitment office on Queens Road in Brighton. Despite uniformed squaddies on the door, the protesters managed to barge their way in, shutting down the office for 1 - 2 hours during its main busy period over lunchtime. The group No War But The Class War distributed leaflets to passers-by and hung a banner saying "Sabotage the War Effort" while police closed off the whole road, redirected traffic and called out the fire brigade. The action was reported on local radio, right after news of more casualties in Afghanistan. No War But The Class War meetings happen in Brighton at 7.30pm every Monday, upstairs at the Hobgoblin pub on London Road.

We see large demonstrations like these as an important part of a developing anti-war movement. The feeling of solidarity and unity that we take away with us is not to be underestimated – nor is the opportunity to exchange ideas and news with others. However, any struggle against the war should not be confined just to demonstrations.

As a first step, we'd like to see people getting together with friends and work mates in their own towns and cities, forming anti-war groups that spread the message of opposition. Lets bypass the corporate media lie machine and get our views out to people direct. And when doing so lets work together as equals and not get taken in by the left-wing organisations who just want to recruit new members.

THE INTENSIFICATION of the attack on Afghanistan provoked a huge demonstration in London. We estimate that 50,000 people turned out. Given the intensity of the pro-war propaganda put out by the establishment the size of the demonstration is very positive. The massive gap between what the ruling elite want us to believe and peoples ability to develop their own views and judge situations amongst themselves was there for all to see.

As always, in future demonstrations anarchists will be walking together. Look out for the black flags and join us on our journey to a free and peaceful society.

A public meeting of London No War But The Class War has been called on 21st October at 2pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.

GLASGOW saw a 2000 strong anti-war demonstration on the same day as the London mobilisation. ★

The demonstration was made up of people from all walks of life, united in their

Will war bring peace?

**Don't fight for the rich,
Fight against the rich!**

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opposition to the war.

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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

Hundreds of anti-war demonstrations have taken place around the world. Here are reports from some sent to www.ainfos.ca/en

Bulgaria

FIFTEEN anarchists protested in front of the American embassy against the new war. Two of the placards were "US GOVERNMENT - TERRORIST #1" and "BIN LADEN OR BUSH, WHERE IS THE DIFFERENCE".

Canada

OVER 250 people turned up at the US consulate in Toronto with only a few hours' notice to protest against the American/British attacks against several cities in Afghanistan.

Quebec

UP TO 500 people demonstrated against war and racism in Quebec City. The call was made by an ad-hoc coalition of student unions, international solidarity groups and anarchists and socialists.

To read the leaflet the North Eastern Federation of Anarcho-Communists distributed at the march, go to <http://www.ainfos.ca/en/ainfos07577.html>

Ireland

AROUND 1,000 people marched through the centre of Dublin as part of an anti-war protest. A stall was set up by a member of the recently launched Anarchist Federation (Ireland), contact them by Email: ireaf@yahoo.ie or Tel: 07951 0797 19.

Kazakhstan

ON OCTOBER 3rd in Aksai, West Kazakhstan, a small town in the immediate vicinity of the huge Karachaganak oil and gas condensate field, leaflets were glued and bubblegummed by anonymous workers group members in the Western oilmen ghetto. It's a highly restricted residential area for managers and specialists with special pass system (various time limits) and strong security infrastructure. It's especially guarded against locals (if they're not young girls).

The Leaflets had the following text: "Fight your real enemies: COPS-BOSSES-POLITICIANS. NO WAR, BUT CLASS WAR!"

Holland

AN ESTIMATED 7000 people came together in Amsterdam to protest against the new war. It was an incredibly fast mobilisation, with the organising "Platform against the New War" formed just two weeks ago, and the largest demonstration

in Amsterdam since the EU summit in 1997. Very inspiring. The platform denounced all military action.

Philippines

NO WAR



BUT THE CLASS WAR

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USA

ON SEPTEMBER 28th students and community members held a "Solidarity Sit-In for Peace" in the MLK commons at Northern Illinois University. In solidarity with those rallying in DC this weekend, they denounced Bush's "War On Terrorism" and called for peace. Around 40 people showed up to this rally.

USA 2

WASHINGTON - A few thousand anti-war demonstrators marched through the nation's capital.

The protests were mainly peaceful, but police in riot gear used pepper spray on demonstrators at least once during a morning march led by an anarchist group. Police arrested some protesters at the skirmish. In another incident, Terrance Gainer, the District of Columbia assistant police chief, was sprayed in the face with something that brought him to his knees. Two officers helped him behind police barricades and he later returned to work.

Poland

AN ANTI-WAR demo was organised by the Polish Anarchist Federation in Poznan at the American consulate. About 80 people came. There were some speeches in which it was explained that war against Afghanistan would follow the same logic which the attackers against WTC were following in their opposition to US. Slogans like "Politicians to the trenches" were yelled. A demo was also organised in Katowice.

France

A NAVY recruitment centre in the South Western town of Pau came under petrol bomb attack from the Totally Anti-War Group, who declare themselves against war, capitalism and imperialism. ★

ON THE FRONTLINE

Malawi Health Workers Strike

MEDICAL staff at Malawi's main hospital, The Queen Elizabeth, went on strike demanding salary increases and allowances on 5th October. Many units, including the children's and maternity wards, were shut. Only the intensive care unit and operating theatres remained open. A senior health official said the strike was illegal because no proper notice was given. It is the latest in a series of strikes among public service workers in Malawi.

Merseyside Fire-fighters' Wildcat

AN UNOFFICIAL strike brought the Merseyside fire service to its knees on 10th September. Staff at all 26 stations walked out in protest at the suspension of a colleague. A spokesman for Merseyside Fire Service described the situation as anarchy. Fire fighters went back to work at as management prepared to take High Court action to force crews back.

Pilots wildcat strike

ON 7th SEPTEMBER a Sabena pilots strike disrupted the movement of 20,000 passengers. The pilot's two-day strike was against restructuring plans which threaten 200 cockpit jobs. The wildcat forced Sabena to cancel all morning flights scheduled out of Brussels. Sabena President Christoph Muller whinged that. "Contradictory to their statements saying that they would not hijack customers, today thousands of customers have been taken by surprise by this wild strike."

Air-traffic controllers on hunger strike

ON 10th OCTOBER air-traffic controllers in Omsk, Siberia, began a hunger strike in protest at a proposed new Labour Code, as well as the refusal of the administration to raise salaries despite increased profits. The hunger-strike, initially planned for two days, is part of a general campaign of action with pickets and stoppages in many workplaces.

Support the Siberian air traffic controllers
Fax: 00 7 (3812)164 115
Email: postmaster@zsa.omsk.su

General strike called in Italy

A GENERAL strike against the war has been called by the teaching section of unicobas, the militant Italian union. October 19th will see thousands giving work a miss and attending a national demonstration in Rome, the last of which attracted 50,000 people.

Spread the anti-war message!

We've produced thousands of stickers using the designs scattered throughout this issue of **resistance**. Send a donation to London Anarchist Federation for a bundle