

FEEDBACK

The next BLACK FLAG readers meeting is on Sunday 13 March starting at 11am and will be held at The Urdd Centre, Conway Road, Pontcanna, Cardiff. All welcome.



BLACK FLAG News Bulletin would like readers to send in reports of what is happening in their local area: local problems, industrial news/dispute/strikes, political groupings, police activity, instances of resistance, etc. Not just the good news but information that will give an insight into local conditions and struggles. We hope then to publish these reports in the Bulletin as a series of articles, helping to build a better picture of what is going in, not just in the main areas of social unrest as seen by the Media, but also in the so-called backwaters: the New Towns, isolated housing estates, rural areas. etc.

Received: 'International Anarchist Press Syndicate Formation Bulletin' Vol.1, No.1. Includes a brief history of the Leonard Peltier's case. (Leonard Peltier was framed for the aiding and abetting of the murder of 2 FBI agents during an armed police raid and shoot out in June 1975 at the Pine Ridge Lakota Indian land in South Dakota. Leonard Peltier can be contacted via: No. 89637-132, Box 1000. Marion, Illinois 62959; also the L.P. defence committee: P.O. Box 1482, Rapid City, S.D. 57709. The Bulletin is published available from Bayou la Rose, P.O. Box 52282, New Orleans, L.A. 70152.

JOINT NEAF & NWA CONFERENCE

On March 26th in Leeds members of the North East & North West Anarchist Federations will be meeting. Hopefully delegates from the Midlands will also attend. Contact:

Box A Project 35, 49a Market Place Doncaster South Yorkshire.

ANGLO-SPANISH EVENT

An opportunity for Spanish and English speaking anarchists and anarcho-syndicalists to meet and talk informally is being planned by Black Flag. The event will take place in Barcelona sometime around mid-summer. Some comrades are hoping to put together an exhibition, 'Anarchism in Britain' to take along. Anyone who is interested in helping out with the exhibition or is interested in finding out more about the get-together, should write to Black Flag.

LONDON-'OXFORD STREET 48'

The penultimate Oxford Street 48 case came up recently with the defendant accused of carrying an offensive weapon-a flick knife. He was found guilty and received an unusually excessively sentence-£300 fine and 3 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years. Donations to the fine should be sent to: 'Oxford Street 48 Campaign', c/o 84b, White-chapel High Street, LONDON E1.

Any anarchists interested in forming a Welsh anarchist federation/contact network should contact Paul, 10 Taff Embankment, Grangetown, Cardiff.

PLYMOUTH-ANARCHIST SUMMER CAMP.
Proposed by the Plymouth anarchists. Date, place, etc to be determined. If interested, contact Plymouth A Group, C/O 115 St. Pancras Avenue, Manadon Vale, Plymouth PL2 3TL.

CENTRO IBERICO TO BE EVICTED

After 7 years occupation the Centro Iberico in Harro Road West London is to be evicted in a months time. They are now looking for new premises (squatted or otherwise) in the West London Area, and people with energy to help with the move itself should turn up at 429 Harrow Road W.London W9.

"A WEEK OF ANARCHISM"

The Anarcho-syndicalist Organisation of Denmark is hosting a get-together of Anarchists 11 - 16th April. People from all over Europe will be attending discussions and films etc on Direct Action, Squatting the recent history of the 70's and 80's. Housing and Food will be available.

Anarkistisk Bogcafe Open: Tues-Fri 1400 to 1730
Nansensgade 43 Saturday 1000 to 1400
Kobenhavn K.
Tel: 01-12-26-82.

Recent evictions and a large police presence may interfere with events so write and or telephone first before attending.

anarchist

121 BOOKSHOP
121 RAILTON RD. SE24
LONDON, U.K.
(Tube: Brixton)
Ph.: 01-274 6655

BLACK FLAG

20p.
Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross
VOL.VII No. 2A



The latest report issued by the MULA (United Command of the Anti-terrorist Campaign) referring to the recent arrest in Barcelona of 5 CNT members, takes us back to the finest feats of the Political Social Brigade in the darkest days of Francoism, but does not surprise us for we realise that there has been no breach with the old regime and the police agencies continue to employ the same methods as before, which speaks volumes about democracy they so loudly boast of. The MULA is merely the successor of the political police brigades which, now, as then, continue to wage terror and implicate innocent people in fictitious episodes ...people whose activities have always focussed upon defending the interest and campaigns of the working class. Francisco Garcia Cano, Daniel Corsino Fernandez, Juan Jose Rodriguez Fortes, Silvie Languella and Maria Espinosa Romero are the persons featured in the latest of MULA's 'inventions': an armed commando that has no existence outside of the imagination of Senor Ballesteros and his faithful subordinates. Yet again MULA shows that it has absolutely no sense of the ridiculous and

has yielded to its well known dramatisation of its operations, with charges out of all proportion (when not downright phoney) and in many cases enforced through the use of torture. This would be a laughable burlesque were it not for the grave, dramatic impact of the implementation of the repressive legislation made available to the MULA by Parliament against those arrested persons covered by the anti-terrorist legislation. The seizure from the homes of those arrested of copies of the magazine 'Tiempos Nuevos' and of 2000 copies of a propaganda handout against World Cup '82 they lump together - as the police statement testifies - with criminal acts going back to 1980, the authorship of which has never been established, and which the MULA now wish to clear from its books by accusing, without a shread of evidence the 5 arrested persons. Yet again the CNT denounces this latest provocation against its members by police agencies that are nothing but the 'armed wing' of the State's own terrorism.

Source: General Secretariat,
Regional Committee for
Catalonia, CNT-AIT.
Barcelona.

NEWS BULLETIN

editorial

This is no. 1 of the new Black Flag News Bulletin. We will attempt to publish the Bulletin fortnightly and it will be available to subscribers only. There will, however, be a few extra copies printed for sale through existing outlets at a cover price of 20p. Subscribers can purchase additional copies, of course, for re-sale, by sending in advance the appropriate payment (20p per issue plus postage). Subscription to Black Flag from now onwards, will include both the Quarterly and the News Bulletin combined (ie, you subscribe to both not one or the other)

The Black Flag News Bulletin will concentrate on news items, while the Quarterly will give emphasis to more in-depth reports, investigations, reviews, etc. Subscribers are encouraged to actively use the Bulletin as a vehicle for circulating news internationally. Each item will be accredited with a source-where this is known. Letters to Black Flag will be published in the Quarterly or in the Bulletin, whichever appropriate.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

New subscribers to Black Flag should note that the subscription rates have been subsequently increased to cover the extra costs involved in providing the News Bulletin. (approx. 20 copies per year-with no issue where they coincide with a Quarterly). Existing subscribers are asked to pay a premium* to cover this increase if they wish to receive a years supply of the Bulletin in addition to the Quarterly which they already receive. In the meantime we will continue to send out copies of the News Bulletin to existing subscribers, whether or not they send in the premium*, but only until the issue of the next Quarterly, after which point we will be unable to send out any more copies of the Bulletin unless the extra money is sent in. We are forced to do this as from then onwards the cost of producing and sending out the Bulletin would come out of our own pockets and a simple calculation would reveal that the loss incurred by not increasing the subscription rates to cover the News Bulletins would come to a staggering £3200 per year. So please send in the extra amount needed-don't forget that cheques, postal orders, money orders, etc to be made payable to 'Black Flag' C/o our temporary address as shown above.

*Note: The increase in the Inland rate is £4; for Overseas subscribers the proportionate increase works out at \$16 airmail and \$8 seamail.

INDUSTRIAL

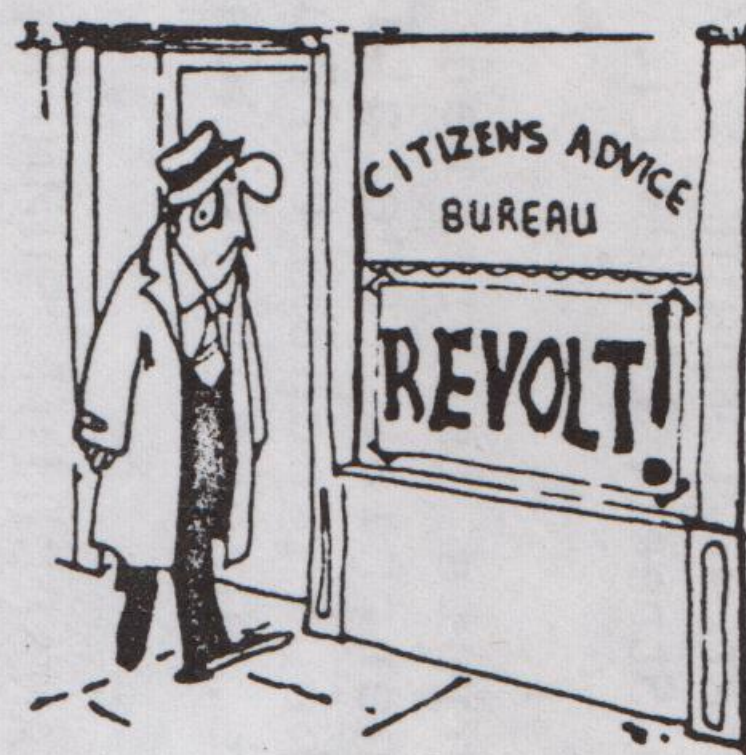
EDDIE HORNER

Eddie Horner-gaoled for life for killing a cop-planned to organise a workers armed resistance group. To finance the group Horner and 2 others decided to rob the factory where he had been sacked from 6 months previous. The cop was shot during the course of the robbery when the 3 were disturbed. After the arrests a hit list and explosives were found in Horners garden. Comrades in the North East are requested to send in more details.

HOSPITAL CUTS

Further drastic cuts to hospital facilities in London and the Home Counties are due. Heart surgery units at the London and N. Middlesex Hospitals are to be closed as will the neurology and neuro-surgery facilities at St. Bartholomews, the Royal Free and the Whittington Hospitals. Radiotherapy will no longer be available at the Southend and Essex County Hospitals. Facilities at the Hospital for Tropical Disease are to be halved and the Coppetts Wood isolation unit is to be closed. There will be less beds available for ear, nose and throat cases at Haringay, Islington, Newham and Redbridge borough hospitals. Ophthalmology facilities are to be withdrawn from Hackney, Hampstead, Islington and Mid-Essex hospitals. The Friern Barnet hospital for the mentally ill could close altogether. Radiotherapy centres are also to be reduced in south east London, while in north London the Central Middlesex Hospital will be shut down altogether.

Meanwhile it has been reported that claiming back Value Added Tax is one of the incentives that will be offered to NHS Area authorities who use private contractors for ancilliary work in hospitals. This is all part of the governments increasing campaign to encourage privatisation in the NHS as well as in nationalised and public service industries generally.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The 1982 Industrial Relations bill, introduced by Norman Tebbit and subsequently ratified by the British parliament, included a clause that allowed and encouraged employers to break acts of international solidarity by workers. Many commonwealth countries are currently looking at the Act in order that they may incorporate it into their respective constitutions. In the industrialised 'democracies' libertarians are often prepared to flout social legal niceties, but in countries where both the legislation and the penalties are far more repressive, such measures, if taken on board, are looked at on a different level. International cooperation by capitalists to resist worker solidarity is not, of course, restricted to the legislature or to state institutions; many directors of multi-national companies (e.g. Tate and Lyle, RTZ, etc) are also leading activists in the Economic League who fund and support anti-worker organisations world wide. (A more detailed breakdown of the role and work of the Economic League and similar organisations, such as Aims of Industry etc, will be given in the next Black Flag Quarterly).

WAGE REDUCTION

500 workers of the Hyster Fork Lift Truck company in Irvine New Town, Scotland, have been forced to accept a 13% reduction in their wages. Refusal would have meant closure of the factory by their American owners. A factory in Portland, Oregon was given a similar ultimatum by Hyster and when the workforce declined to forgo a 3½ wage rise, sackings took place on a mass scale.

DANISH DOCKERS STRIKE BOMBS FOUND

2 pounds of explosives were found near a West German ship being loaded by non-union workers. Fires at other Danish ports have been reported during the 8 week dockers strike.



policing

NEWMAN'S CHANGES

After Metropolitan Police Commissioner Newman's Brixton experiment (see Black Flag Quarterly Vol.VII, No. 2) a number of changes to policing are to be made in London with possible repercussions for the rest of the country. More police-around 1000-are to be recruited into the Met. and greater emphasis will be placed in future on 'targetting, improved information gathering and pro-active policing'-that is, a greater concentration of 'Swamp 81' type tactics around council estates/inner city areas. The IRU's (Instant Response Units) are to be re-named DSU's (District Response Units) and will function as local SPG-type squads, while the actual SPG will be re-organised as London-wide back-up militia's to the local units. (A report, 'Pro-active Anti-Policing', will appear in the next Black Flag Quarterly).

NEW POLICE UNIFORM?

A senior member of Scotland Yard's Solicitor's department was recently arrested in a pub - wearing Nazi drag with a revolver suspended from his belt. So far the case has been hushed up in the press though the man concerned has been suspended from his Law duties pending investigation/exposure. It is well known that a Nazi group operates within Scotland Yard, as in most penal establishments. But carrying revolvers in public houses, no doubt under the influence of alcohol, could carry a heavy sentence if some other political persuasion were involved - as any Scotland Yard legal expert can tell you - and may well result in a "severe reprimand" on this occasion.



An arrest during last week's demonstration to demand a public enquiry into the death of Colin Roach, who died in mysterious circumstances in Stoke Newington police station.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Italy

An example of the harsh anti-terrorist crackdown in Italy has been given in the recent trial of 63 accused of membership of Brigatte Rosse and complicity in the kidnapping of Aldo Moro. 32 were given life sentences, including an obligatory 24 months solitary. Italian law states that if it is proved that you are a member of a terrorist organisation, then you are guilty of all its crimes. As with many Italian terrorist trials, evidence was elicited through the complicity of penitito's. During the trial no mention, of course, was made of the question of police and government complicity in Moro's execution-prior to his kidnapping Moro was rumoured to have plans to bring in the Communist Party as part of the government coalition-and their deliberate delaying tactics.

prisoners

SPAIN

Released: (after payment of bail) Antonio Novio Bautista and Manuel Munne Sorazu; (after having served $\frac{3}{4}$ of their sentences) Jordi Cano Capparos and Dolores Aparicio Casals. Transferred: (from El Puerto to Carabanchel) Saturnino Saez Ibarra; (from Carabanchel to Segovia) Jose Cuevas Casado, Francisco Asensio Garcia, Rafael Simon Gomez, Miguel Angel Moreno Patrino and Fidel Manrique Garrido. Recent arrests: Daniel Corsino Fernandez in Barcelona on 13 July.

Listed: CARABANCHEL (Madrid)-Miguel Mulet Nicolau, Francisco Nicolas Garrido, Jose Granados Martinez, Juan Conesa Sanz, Fernando Simon Fernandez, Jose Ramon Conejo Sanchez, Alain Drogou Cadec, J.M. Viertes Arcas, Francisco Moreno Cando, Juan Antonio Senovilla Senovilla, Alfonso Morales Calvo, Daniel Corsino Fernandez, Jacinto Avalos Cardona, Alejandro Mata Camacho, Francisco Sevilla Soler, Guillermo Median Hernandez, Jose Orive Velez, Angel Vega Abreila, ALCALA-MECO-Jose Cuevas Casado, Florencio Munoz Granados. OCANA 1 (TOLEDO)-Fernando Garcia Morales. OCANA 2 (TOLEDO)-Arturo Palma Segura, Javier Canadas Gascon. MODELO DE VALENCIA-Francisco Escriche Ferrer, Eugenio Asensio Noges. MODELO DE BARCELONA-Juan M Fernandez Asensio Adrian Sotes Rius, Pedro Sanchez Serrano, Ignacio Alonso Martin, Antonio M Rojas Garcia, Guillermo Pelleja, Jorge Gil Salvador. CANARIAS-Alvaro Alvaro del Rio, M Luisa Alvaro del Rio, Guillermo Gonzalez. SEGOVIA-Vincente Dominguez Medina, Fernando Merino del Rio, Jose Luis Piquero Perez. HERRERA DE LA MANCHA(C. REAL)-Miguel Cuenca Rastrojo. EL PUERTO DE S. MARIA-Pedro Garcia Pena.

Source: 'CNT'

ITALY

Juan Soto Paullacar and Riccardo d'Este: Via Leopardi 2, Fossornbrone 61034. Horst Fantazzini and Angelo Monaco: Via Trodio, Palmi (RC) 89015. Valeria Vecchi, Flora Capelluti, and Carmell Pane: Female Wing, Don Bosco Prison, Pisa 56100. Vito Messana, Sandro Meloni, Rocco Martino, and Gaby Harting: Via Badu'e Canos, Nuoro 08100. Gianfranco Bertoli: Forte S Giacomo, Porto Azzurro (LI). Ivan Zerlotti: Prison Spoleto (PG). Nella Montanini: Via Spalato, Udine 33100. Gabriele Fuga and Giordano Sangiovanni Sangiovanni: Piazza Filangieriz, Milano 20123. Daniele Tarasco and Renato Cornacchia Cornacchia: Corso Vercelli 165, Ivrea (TO) 10015. Willy Piroch: Via Andria 300, Trania (BA) 70059. Battista Saiu: Imperia Prison 18100. Monica Oppezo: Corso Vittorio Emanuele 127, Torino 10138.

Source: Croenera, Oct.82

Spain

E Alfonso (in 'CNT', Sept. 82) after referring to the amnesty for those ETA (p-m) prisoners who have renounced armed struggle and whose organisation has negotiated their release, writes:

"But there is another group of prisoners who cannot get into this game of making compacts....namely the libertarian prisoners. Over 50 of them are scattered throughout a half dozen prisons. They repudiate the label 'terrorist', not because they are renouncing anything but quite simply because their circumstances are the direct product of a social violence of which their acts are not the cause but rather the effect. They are people who can only be reproached with having stood up to that violence, the essence of which is closely bound up with the injustice inspired by the repressive activity of the State itself. Victims if the States own terrorism, they are caught in a situation which is the creation of the State. So for these 50 libertarian prisoners there will be no pardons, because they are not backed up by any 'line' of armed struggle,

nor is there behind them any organisation purpose built for violence that might negotiate on their behalf. A simple assessment of the negotiations leads one to the paradoxical conclusion that the libertarians may perhaps have erred by not having set up an armed organisation that might subsequently enter into some truce with the State as a means of settling their fate. This creates an absurd situation. Their 'organisation' cannot renounce armed struggle because, according to the State that 'organisation' never existed. Nor can they individually turn their backs on an 'armed Struggle' which they not only did not plan, but for which they are bearing the brunt as the victims-an armed struggle organised and waged by the State itself."

Source: 'CNT'

aa

grounds and their anarchism was a direct reflection of this. Below is part of Comrade Meletis statement: "I am 100% proletarian I have no estate. Even the clothes I wear today are borrowed. Even so I did not commit robbery to make money, for myself. The seizure, the expropriation of money, happened to show who had done it, to show from which political movement it came from, it was actually propaganda. That is why we left statements saying the robbery was in the name of the people's revolution. We had agreed that we would not use the guns, I have nothing to do with the fatal injury of the victim. After his family the first person to grieve for him was myself."

"I am an enemy of the State. And it is the State which tries me. How can the outcome be fair? The judges are representatives of the State. And the banks the back-bone of the State and capitalism. The State and the Bank should be tried today for the robbery. That is why I declare that the money we took was to be used for revolutionary purposes and to help the earht-quake victims and the unemployed."

As expected the judges did not accept that there could be 'ideological' reasons behind the robbery. The sentences were: Th.Meletis: 31 years old, actor and presser. LIFE imprisonment for manslaughter. 21 years imprisonment on other charges. And a fine of 40,000 Drachmas. G.Thaskaloboulos: 23 years old, carpenter. Tried whilst in hospital. LIFE imprisonment for manslaughter. 21 years on other charges. G.Pappas: 21 year old worker. 3 years aiding and abetting. 15 months illegal possession of arms.

These are the sort of sentences dished out by the fascists junta of the Colonels years ago. But today the socialist Govt. is the darling of the Left and CND. Nothing has changed. The anarchist/autonomous movement of Greece is under constant repression. Please protest to all agencies of the Greek State and to their apologists.

P.P.

* 120 Drachmas = £1 Sterling.

Further information on this case will be appearing in the next Bulletin, we hope to be able to publish the details of how to write to these comrades and give support.

POLAND

Several underground activists, including a KOR dissident, having been gaoled for their part in setting up Radio Solidarnosc. Sentences ranged from 7 months to 4½ years. Aid to the Polish Underground can be sent via Sigma (cheques, etc. to Jochen Knoblauch, Postcheckkonto NR 4515 23--109, Postcheckamt, Berlin West).

GREECE

On the 6 March 1981, comrades G Thaskaloboulos and Th. Meletis entered a branch of the National Bank of Greece. Another comrade, G Pappas, kept watch. During the course of the robbery a customer, A Koligliati, was accidentally shot and injured. The comrades got away with 280,000 Drachmas, and to make the point clear they left statements claiming the robbery in the name of the "people's revolution". Within days the comrades had been arrested.

Consequently the injured man died three months later. The case has only just ended, the three anarchists had been kept in prison since March '81, that included time in the psychiatric wing in an effort to break their will. This is a common tactic in Greece, where anarchists and dissidents are regularly confined to mental asylums a la Soviet Russia. On the day before the trial comrade Thaskaloboulos was taken seriously ill and had a stomach operation, he was tried by the Court in his absence.



Comrade Meletis took, therefore, the brunt of the Prosecution case, charged with manslaughter, illegal possession of weapons and armed robbery. The absent comrade faced the same charges. G.Pappas faced charges of aiding and abetting and illegal possession of arms.

From the start Comrade Meletis did not contest the charges and he refused to recognize the court, he refused to plead and instead demanded to be tried by a people's court. He did not accept the charge of robbery but claimed the action as a 'revolutionary expropriation'.

The prosecution demanded death sentences and the court had been packed with police and bank employees. Anarchist opposition to the case due to the present disorganised state of the movement, was practically non-existent.

During the case Meletis refused to plead and instead made lengthy statements outlining his life and ideas. All three of the comrades come from poor working class back-

fascists

The Black Peoples Action Committee have had their centre in Croydon firebombed. Part of the building was damaged.

The stance of BPAC is anti-police and actively antifascist (the National Front are Headquartered nearby). Recently they acquired a lot of Media attention (Channel 4 documentary plus double page spreads in the Sunday gossip press) detailing their monitoring activities. Over the past few months they developed a sustained campaign of open harrassment against the local police, placing them under surveillance, logging their movements, intervening in arrests, resisting intimidation, creating no-go areas, initiating self policing (antifascist) schemes, etc. We should not rule out the possibility that the arson attack was organised/undertaken by the Croydon police or their associates. They had both the motive and the know-how. Blame will no doubt fall on the NF and it is equally probable that they or another fascist organisation were involved solely or in direct collaboration with the forces of law and order. Prior to the attack an eviction order was served on the building by Croydon Council (who have also been the subject of abuse from BPAC). Perhaps they have discovered a novel method of issuing final warnings. We hope to publish a more detailed report from BPAC soon.



HOFFMAN GROUP

Two members of the W. German neo-fascist Hoffman group were discovered by Dorset police at the Wareham home of ex Column 88 leader Ian Souter-Clarence. They are wanted in connection with several bomb attacks in Germany last year and extradition proceedings against the two (Walther Kexel and Ulrich Tillman) are now underway. Souter-Clarence has been involved in international fascist activities for many years and he has helped to train (he's an ex-army officer) many C 88 recruits in paramilitary techniques. Currently he is the director of Wessex Survival Services (SS), which acts as a consultancy (sic) on all forms of survival and security matters.

deaths in custody

We have received more information regarding deaths of inmates whilst in custody. In Canterbury Prison, in 1982 four prisoners, all young, died - the causes being either 'suicide' or 'natural causes': in January Mick Ryan, in July Shaun Enright, in August Douglas Kurn, and in September Mark Cooper. Recently we learn that the 'suicide' verdict on James Heather-Hayes, the 17 year old who threw a couple of molotov's into Teddington Police Station in late 1981 and subsequently imprisoned at Ashford, was qualified with a statement from the inquest that the death was caused because of 'lack of care'.

Two youths had hanged themselves within a week of each other at the Glenochil Home For Young Offenders in Clackmannanshire. Last year there were two similar cases in Alloa.

Steven Walmsley was found dead in his cell at Stoke Heath borstal. He died of strangulation and was found hanging from his overall straps. Although Steven had suffered abuse, torment and assault (2 months previous he was taken to hospital with a broken jaw after being attacked by another inmate), the coroners jury did not decide that the suicide was due to 'lack of care' as in the Heather-Hayes case. Steven died on 11 October but it was not until 22 October that his parents received notification of his death, by which time his body had been cremated.

Source: Inquest

Getting angrier!

Following the recent bomb alerts in the north of England, we received a copy of a letter sent to Conservative Party headquarters claiming responsibility. Here is the full text:

WE PLANTED the small bombs in your northern headquarters at Manchester and Leeds as a reminder to you of the active resistance which exists in this country.

We have had enough of you ruining our lives. You commit the worst forms of violence in our society and you don't

care. We are thrown out of work abused by the DHSS and the police, deported and exploited - and still its not enough for you. Every day we are subjected to greater repression; police powers are increased, more racist laws introduced, 20 years of gains by women are eroded in three, the organised labour movement is under attack, and now we see a policy of summary execution.

You think you can crush us, but you're wrong. We will not remain silent in the face of this on-slaught - we are fighting back. So far our actions have been aimed at property and not people, but our patience is wearing thin.

WE ARE GETTING CLOSER.
ANGRY BRIGADES
RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

Page 6 The Leveller, February 1983

letter bombs

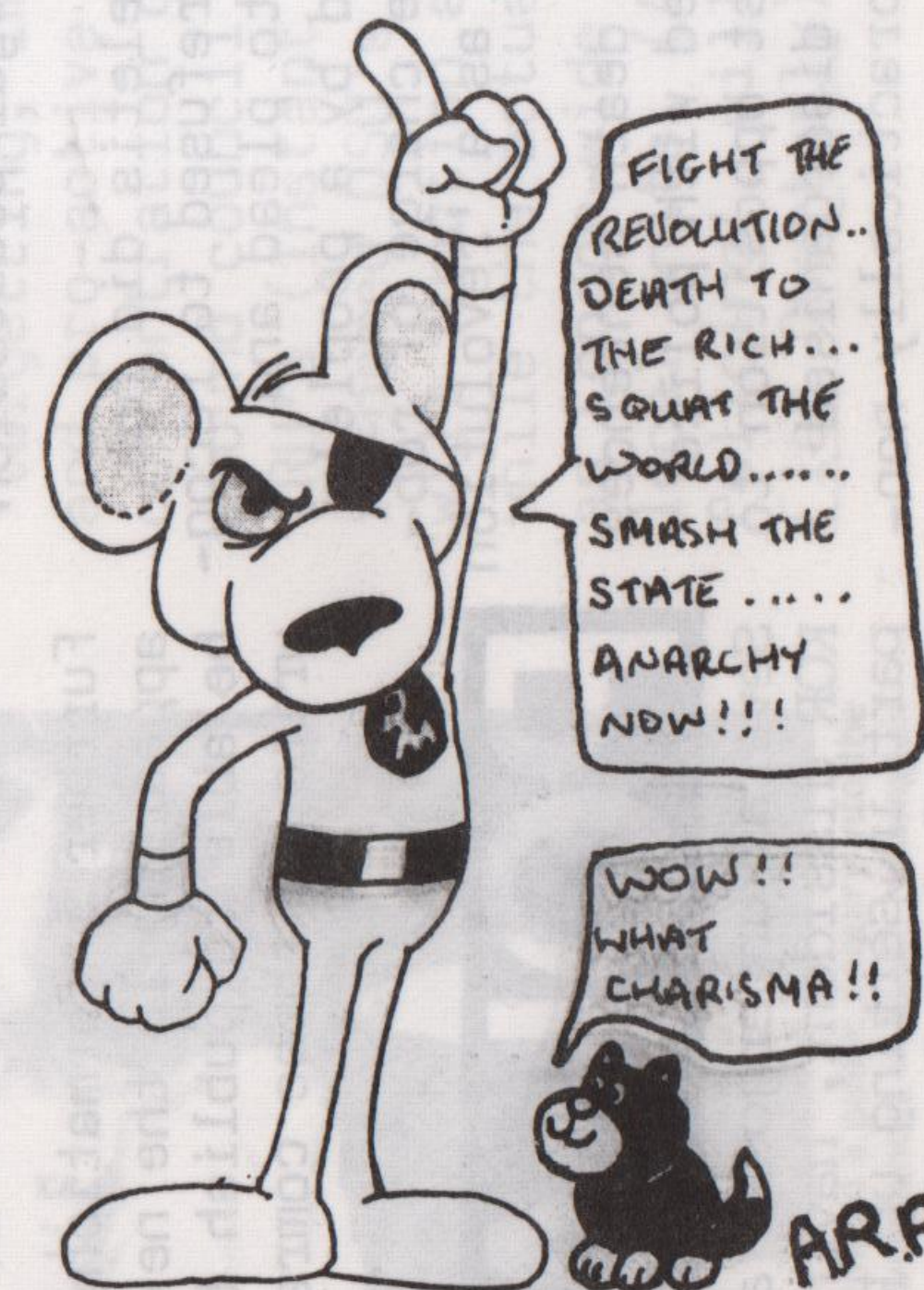
Its letter bomb season again. The 'Animal Rights Militia' sent letter bombs to: a Hull furrier, a man in Manchester (the police will not disclose his identity), Peter Walker the Minister for Agriculture, Edelsons (furriers) in Manchester, Bristol University Animal Research Centre, and Professor Roy Calne (well known vivisectionist) at Cambridge. The Scottish National Liberation Army sent a letter bomb to the Lord Provost at Glasgow City Commerce centre on the day of Princess Diana's visit. Four letter bombs have been sent to Soviet targets: the Soviet Embassy, the Soviet Weekly offices, the Intourist offices and Aeroflot. Police initially reported that responsibility for these attacks were claimed by the Jewish Defence League. But later a group calling themselves 'Makhno's Anarchist Army' claimed (in a letter to the Guardian newspaper) that the police were lying and that they (MAA) were responsible. The letter stated that the letter bombs were sent as a protest on behalf of all political prisoners.

As reported in the last Black Flag a letter bomb was also sent to Tory HQ in Leeds on the morning of the visit by Margaret Thatcher. Warning was given (a woman rang up the Manchester Evening News claiming responsibility on behalf of the Angry Brigade/Resistance Movement) and the bomb was defused by an army bomb disposal team. The AB/RM also claimed responsibility for the attack on property in Wakefield belonging to the Prison Officers Training College when a fence and several windows were damaged by a minor explosive device.

If the objective of the AB/RM with the Wakefield bombing was to cause damage to the building, they would have been better off using an incendiary (or even a can of petrol and a box of matches). If the AB/RM -as with the Leeds incident --neither wished to cause damage to property or injury to people (the device chosen could only cause injury and the AB/RM prevented this by ensuring warning was given)



then we must conclude that both incidents were stage managed for their publicity spin off, knowing that the magical combination of bombs and the name 'Angry Brigade' would guarantee media attention. As an experiment, therefore, in orchestrating and focusing the Media around a particular issue or as a possible trial run for future non-symbolic actions, the attacks have proven successful. In this sense the attacks were more a gesture of defiance rather than an act of resistance. Had the Media, however, chosen or were instructed not to publicise the incidents the effects of such gestures would have been greatly diminished. As for the devices selected for the attacks, with the Leeds incident (and this applies equally to the ARM attacks but, perhaps, less to those by MAA) it was unfortunate that the letter bomb form was used. Letter bombs are inappropriate because they generally stand a major chance of being intercepted or, if they are not spotted, of reaching the wrong target (a janitor, a postroom attendant, etc). Even if such devices contain timing mechanisms they are still unsuitable as timers are not always reliable. With the attack on the Conservative Party building misplaced targetting was prevented with the forewarning of the authorities. One final point: the AB/RM should cease their telephone communications with newspapers; all national and major regional papers have automatic recording facilities on tap for future voice print matching.



NESTOR MAKHNO & THE JEWISH QUESTION

This is the title of a 20 page 'samizdat' pamphlet published in June 1982. The author V. Litvinov shows how the Makhnovist movement of anarcho-communism in the Ukraine was slandered by the Soviet State for its opposition to Bolshevism. From 1905 to 1921 close links with the Jewish community were forged in the general movement for emancipation.

Source: IZTOK 26 rue Piat 75020 Paris France.