BLACK FLAG
FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE
July '90

ANARCHIST MURDERED—KGB SUSPECTED

THE RUSSIAN dictatorship, faced with economic collapse, has relaxed, but it is not dead. As the old entrenched bureaucrats fight for positions on the new capitalist bandwagon, they are faced with a workers opposition not having to lurk in the shadows any longer conspiring to revolt but able to organise industrially. The political police and the Party no longer swoop on all actual, presumed or potential opponents in mass; they still wipe out their determined opponents.

PIOTR PETROVITCH SIUDA, 53 year old activist of the KAS (Confederation of Anarchistic-Syndicalists), was killed in secret on the 5th May. He had been investigating the repression carried out by the KGB in the town of Novocherkassk for the KAS paper Volia, and making the details widely known through the communist press too. It is quite general now to publish details of repression and the previously unknown armed uprisings against it—provided this was in Stalin’s time. It is beginning to be the case that state crime and workers’ risings in the USSR are again being ‘secretly’ covered up.

PIOTR SIUDA. Ph. KAS

DEFEND THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE 500

AFTER A DECADE under the Tory dictatorship the ruling class has become unused to having its authority questioned. It has never been accustomed to having it defined. Not only did the Trafalgar Square demonstration stand up to the police and question its authority to attack with impunity popular demonstrations, but it and the broader mass non-payment movement attacks the ‘right’ of the elected dictatorship to impose its law without recourse to those it governs. But the State will not stand back and see its power questioned. It will try and crush any attempt to undermine it and is starting with those arbitrarily arrested in the ‘Battle of Trafalgar’.

Operation Carnaby is the largest operation ever mounted by the Metropolitan Police. 137 officers are working their way through 30,000 photographs and 90 hours of video from the demonstration. It is backed up by a special ‘riot prosecution service’, the first of its kind within the Crown Prosecution Service which has 13 lawyers and 10 administrative staff working full time to speed the cases to court. Already since the initial 396 were arrested on the day a further 72 have been charged and more can be expected. The role of the police and the judiciary has never been clearer. In the year when the increase in the crime rate—and that of anti-social crime in particular—has soared to its highest level since the war they have shown their priorities. The myth that they serve and protect the public has become a pious lie and one that is becoming apparent to more and more people. They serve their political paymasters alone.

But Operation Carnaby is only the basis of a larger police campaign. Sometimes using the pretext of photographic evidence from the demonstration, sometimes in acts of blatant harassment, anti-politicians are being raided and questioned. In some cases stalls and events have received their undue attention. The police are also working in the opposite direction. Known political activists have been raided and having their photos matched against those taken at Trafalgar Square. This is happening all around the country and while at the present the raids are sporadic ‘fishing expeditions’, it must be considered that they are laying the ground work for a concerted campaign against the anti-politicians and the political activists involved in it.

This makes it all the more imperative that those arrested at Trafalgar Square are supported. We are no movement at all unless we can collectively defend those persecuted for their opposition to the poll tax—whether it be through police aggression or because of non-payment. And we cannot rely on a purely legal defence. As the reality of mass non-payment begins to take effect, the Tories will not simply turn round and scrap their ‘flagship’; they will just move the goal posts to make the enforcing of collection and prosecution easier. The only defence we can rely on is the collective solidarity of our class.

The Trafalgar Square Defenders Campaign (TSDC) was set up on May 3 involving defen
dants, solicitors, anti-politicians and supporters. It is an independent organisation run by and accountable to those arrested; all of whom it unconditionally supports. To be able to mount an effective defence campaign it is essential that all local, town and regional federa
tions back it wholeheartedly. This backing must be more than just financial (though this is important—the TSDC needs to raise at least £50,000) but we must make an active contribu

bution to the campaign. Primarily it needs to make contact with all those who were arrested at Trafalgar Square and all who witnessed any of these arrests. It also needs any photos or video coverage of the demonstration.

All the stops are going to be pulled out by the prosecution in defence of the police riot. By op
posing and exposing the show trials of the defen
dants, which will be staged this summer we can undermine the State’s efforts to divide and discredit the movement.

The Trafalgar Square 500 are the first victims of a confrontation with the State which can only intensify and it is around these 500 that we must build the solidarity that will take this campaign through to victory.

DEFEND THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE 500

TSDC c/o Halaline Society Lawyers Panther House 38 Mount Pleasant London WC1 (tel: 071-833-8926)
**COUNCIL WORKERS FIGHT BACK!**

There is currently a concerted attack by employers on the pay and conditions of local council workers. This attack has been hardest in Labour boroughs, particularly those with a tradition of "left" control. A common feature has been the willingness of Labour councillors to victimise activists and interfere against the advice of chief officers (a bit like the shareholders getting involved in the day to day running of a private company, against the wishes of the Managing Director). As anarchists, we don't believe that Labour is any better than the Tories as management, and we need to make quite clear that just because our bosses wear red rosettes and talk about Nicarguans, they are still our enemies.

The most encouraging development has been the strike by Housing Cashiers in Greenwich, over collection of the poll tax. Cashiers were told that they'd have to collect poll tax from April 1st, without any extra money, staff, training or anything. Cashiers in the Borough Treasurers' department had accepted a deal which gave them an upgrading. The Housing cashiers refused to collect it and 11 were suspended on April 28th. However, 8 had organised at a rank and file level across the borough, rather than rely on NALGO's structures. Needless to say, Greenwich residents are more than happy to respect the picket lines and not pay their poll tax. Of the 0.6 million lost, only £1.6 million has been collected. Management have tried all sorts of dirty tricks to break the strike, and have refused to negotiate. Once again, the Labour Party stand exposed as the cringing, hypocritical, self-appointed employers' army of 1993, which simply has no more respect for its workers or any interest in supplying decent jobs, and then having a whip for Labour members to attend the Joint Committee to make sure that the negotiations were wasted.

Although it started around pay and staffing levels, the dispute has escalated into a political strike. Nalgo have been paying strike pay to the cashiers, and there has been good support from other council workers, particularly in Housing Benefits. However, there are problems with ACTSS, the scalar black collar union that part of the T & G. ACTSS members regularly march through picket lines, and actively work against solidarity, showing the complete bankruptcy of reformist, socialist, democratic trade unionism.

Other councils in London are also in dispute. Few readers will be unaware of the attempt by the Labour Party's leadership to sack Andy Murphy in Hackney. After Andy spoke out in defence of poll tax rioters on TV on behalf of Class War, a T&G MP with Special Branch connections found out where Andy worked. This was raised by Kimnnoch, whose Private Secretary phoned Hackney Council and told them to get rid of him. After a campaign by Hackney Nalgo, and fearful of disruption to the local elections, they reinstated the discipline against Andy, contrary to their own officers' advice and their own policy (Hackerney Labour Party had passed a motion in support of the right of council workers to express opinions, except for fascists and racists). As we go to press, the situation is in the balance.

In Lewisham, Nalgo Adams, the Head of the Race Unit, was sacked for writing a letter! The letter criticised the council's lack of commitment to equality (they had scrapped the Race & Women's Unit last year, and set up a new Equalities Development Unit with fewer powers and a wider range of work to cover). Equalities Units were only achieved through the struggle of black people and women. The most effective ones (usually those that are being scrapped now) have proved to be a thorn in the side of management. Certainly, Neville Adams has been a hero for the role. Lewisham has had 2 one day strikes in support of their reinstatement. Meanwhile, the council have appointed a white, male, middle class Labour Party member as Head of Equalities Development Unit (or European Domination Unit, as it has been termed). Another black activist in Lewisham is also in dispute, with discipline for using a photocopier! It comes as no surprise that these workers are fast losing faith in Lewisham. Could anyone have any faith in a council whose leader recently said in The Independent that Indepedent making duchmane work twice four times harder was a socialist act? It's a good job Jezebuse was shot, or Lewisham would have brought him in as a consultant. Same goes for any council where to put their unprincipled opportunism.

The real potential to make these policies work is in councils, united in a common struggle. Terry controlled Cronandy also has a dispute on its hands, after sacking a principal officer with a black background- Jecrg Wright was the only student at that level of council work and he was called a "clerk-mist". What was this heinous crime ?

Was it theft, sexual misconduct, assault ? No, management objected to the way he handled a risk situation. George was sacked by a manager with no experience in the service concerned, who has no qualifications in social work and got his job because he knew one of our council workers within the Mental Handicap Service demanded a ballot, and won it overwhelmingly. They don't like the idea.

What links all these disputes is their overt political nature, and the fact that councils are clearly after their poll tax defas.

When councils firm up their budgets in the Autumn, they'll do the same as they did ever since they came into power. Councils will demand the money isn't there. (Non-payment in London currently stands at around 75%). That means cuts, and they are no less that are coming. Now is the time to organise. We need to stand against the cuts, demand a new programme for the council. We need an Anarchist, committed socialist and black and women activists. We think we're a pain, and fight back too much. It's OK to protest, but not when it threatens Labour in the polls. We must stand loud and clear that we have nothing in common with our em- ployers, whatever their political hue. Ap- logists for the Labour Party say that if we take that attitude, everywhere will be like Wandsworth. For a start, Wandsworth is an ex- ception, just like in the private sector there are exceptionally nasty bosses, as well as those that aren't so bad. Secondly, with Labour's current strength, we can't get this in the end anywhere. An Anarchist-socialist council would work.

Anarchist-Syndicalist Council Workers
(LOndon's best kept secret).

**Q & A on Anarchism**

**Q. What is the class war?**

The class war is the conflict of interest between the working class and the owners of the means of production, who use their power and economic strength to exploit the workers, suppressing them under bourgeois law and their own system of oppression and exploitation.

It is a caricature of the class war to associate it solely with rioting—though rioting can result from it as sometimes for other reasons (eg, racism); or to say that it is just a class between rich and poor.

Workers who press their demands with vigorous particular interests in particular circumstances can be advanced capitalist countries become home and pay, even investments, and people who from the upper classes, in a hard-road middle-class society, whose families have not worked or traded, can squander away their assets. The theory of the class war fails to everybody is middle class. This serves to camou- flage class struggle but continues as a system.

People might change classes (by luck, prom- ote marriage, etc.), the way they change na- tion, social class system does not change nor the struggle which comes out of it. One can take a step in the actual struggle as individual circumstances might be, but one is still affected by the war, which is still on.

**MAYDAY IN STEEL CITY**

This year's official May Day Rally in Sheffield was so successful at disrupting the normal pattern of industrial activity, that it has been described as a "massive victory" for the miners' strike. The success of the rally was due in no small part to the support given by local councils, who provided funding and transport to the pockets of the capitalists. The past costs in the price of coal are due to a 4% reduction in the price of electricity, but in-

Anarchist-quiz

1. Who first said history repeats itself?—the first line of the original Anarchist song. What is it, and what example did he give of this dubious general proposition?

2. What is religion in the opinion of the people and why so?

3. Are there any British opera composers alive—so why does Alan Bush get neglected here?

4. After WWII the Polish Anarchists re-formed publicly—why later? What was the Commissarist authorities, why but did some ele- ments in the government first think the Anarch- ists might be allowed to function openly? Then under the Nati regime in the early campaigns for concentration camps in the early years of the Nazi regime.

Answers on Page 7
GREEK ANARCHISTS GREET DE KLERC

ON MAY 11 the South African president Frederik De Klerc visited Greece on an official visit. A demonstration called by the National Union of Students attracted 3,000 people of whom almost a third were anarchists. After a rally outside the polytechnic, it made its way towards the houses of parliament. When the police tried to stop the anarchists from reaching parliament fighting broke out. The police were forced back by a barrage of some 150 molotovs and the march proceeded, during which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also petrol-bombed. Three anarchists were arrested, one of whom was hospitalised. Two are now out on bail, but one, Vangelis Grivas is still being held at Korydallos prison in Pireas.

FINNISH VICTORY

AFTER A HUNGERSTRIKE lasting 39 days 3 Finnish total objects—those who refuse to do both the compulsory military service or the alternative civil service—were freed from prison. One of them was released a commander in the Finnish ABC. The hungerstriker started as 300 Finnish civil servants who announced an illegal strike to protest at the length of the alternative service and the treatment of total objects. The alternative service lasts for 18 months and thereafter military service 8-11 months. Total objects face a minimum of 12 months. Thirteen were released as the first total objects to be granted an amnesty, but though a victory the Finnish ABC will continue to fight against compulsory military service and for the 15 other total objects still in prison.

ANC TORTURES 'ANARCHISTS'

SEVEN ELDER members of the African National Congress, refugees in Kenya, have affirmed that they were tortured in 1984 following an abortive rebellion within the ranks of the ANC's military wing 'Umkhonto we Sizwe'. Tied to trees, they were first whipped, then beaten with a chain and under pressure from the sun. Some of them were burned with the heating element of a plastic.

Over several years sixty activists of the ANC, with the co-operation of its corrupt leaders, have perished under torture. One of those accused admitted, with an air or remorse, that some of the 'accused' accused others of treason, rebellion and the murder of officers but had been 'informed' in the ANC camps set up on the Frontier States between 1978 and 1984. To torture the accused with words, to be justified because the people were said to be 'anarchists.' The GUP did likewise, in the Russian and Spanish revolutions, using identical excuses. The ANC, with its close links with the Stalinesque CP of USA, has learned well from its masters.

These revelations must be considered with cases of torture and the detention of oppositionists from their own ranks (two or three hundred at present). It doesn't auger much for the future of the ANC, especially relating to the announcement of murders and torture by Winnie Mandela's 'bodyguard'.

source: Le Monde Liberaire

OUT OF AFRICA The Sudan

THE ATTEMPTED rising in the Sudan against the military regime of General Omar Hassan Al Beshir was crushed. Members of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have been exterminated. Yet the government shares the 'national liberation' ideology in the Muslim world. Sudan is divided into two: the Arab and largely Muslim North, the African and pagan, secular and sometimes Christian south. The south has joined forces with workers in the North not wholly brainwashed by Islam and inclined to the modernisers. The combat is against clerical exploitation and military domination, and the success of Beshir means continued Islamic law, including slash biology. The Sudanese do not want us to come over in a few years with the same story of wide scale torture, repressive measures and economic disaster.

We are determined to male our country a beacon, a beacon of light. To push the curtain and the curtain is down.

source: The Times

PROPAGANDA

There were many stalls at the congress, ranging from Movimientos Libres to the FAD, to various libertarian groups from all over Spain. Much of the propaganda was directed at the traditional enemies of the working class—the State, the Church and the fascists. A sign of more recent developments was the space given to ecological, anti-racist and anti-drug material.

Published specially for the congress was a pamphlet entitled "100 Years of Anarcho-Syndicalism in Euskadi" (the Basque country). The pamphlet covers the early Utopians of the 19th century right up to the founding of the CNT, the Republic, the Revolution, and the CNT under Franco.

The CNT's official publishing house, Madre Tierra, was also present with a new catalogue. They have published several "classics", including Kropotkin's "Mutual Aid" and Peirats' "Anarchist Revolution", as well as modern works by Alfonso Garcia Leval and a new book "El Oro de Negrín" (Negrín's Gold) about the history of the government of the revolution. (Ediciones Madre Tierra Parque Vosa, 12 bajo, 28993, Madrid).

I came away from the congress confident that the CNT is back on the right track. The workers and the lumpenproletariat exist and struggle against the State, and the congress decision to support the Basque Anarchists is determined to destroy it, together with the Madrid editors.
Under Poll Tax, Trade Union Day School

On April 28th, at the University of London Union, delegates from over 40 branches of 22 unions attended a day-school on the poll tax and its effects on workers. Called by the Federation of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils, it was generally felt to have been extremely successful, showing a marked change of venue. Most of the delegates present were from the white collar unions, and the major emphasis of the day was on the presentation of the tax—the NALGO, the CPSA, and the TUC. There was also a delegate from the Fire Brigades' Union, who presented a policy of non-payment, and APEX, the union for staff employed by institutions. The APEX delegate expressed surprise that, although most unions would deduct poll tax from their employees' wages, it seems likely that little thought has been given to attendance of members of unions not noted for their militancy, like the Transport & General Staffs Association, the non-union ticket office clerks, the UASAW (shopworkers) and the National Association of Probation Officers.

The day-school was kicked off by Ivan Beris, a member of the Nalgo National Executive and Branch Secretary of Hackney Nalgo, who supports industrial action and non-payment to defeat the tax. However, the delegates broke up into two sessions—one on non-implementation, and one on wage rates. The non-implementation workshop was designed primarily with local government and NHS workers in mind. It concentrated on what could be done, and how to raise the issue at work. The biggest debate was on what other action should be taken around pay rates and conditions, or whether action should be explicitly political, ie directed against the tax. Although no one was against action of this kind, it is necessary to take whatever action possible, and conditions which are free of the tax effects (such as those dealing directly with implementation) must be addressed as well. A good example of anti-poll tax action is the current strike by cashiers in Greenwich. The Housing Department ordered cashiers to accept the poll tax without any extra staff. Obviously, poll tax means a big increase in their workload. After 10 were suspended, over 150 walked out on indefinite strike. Although not on strike against the poll tax, the effect they are having is enormous. Needless to say, union ushers have been magnificently, when asked not to cross their pickets lines to pay their poll tax, thousands of Greenwich residents have respected the picket.

With poll tax workers themselves, they need to be organised first. Then, conditions can be fought over. However, it would be stupid to say to these workers, many of whom are in low pay, the diet, to boycott their own wages. When the time comes, they must be strong enough to demand that they be transferred to work with a firm that has backed when the whole sorry house of cards that is poll tax collapses. One of the key points was raised by Newham Nalgo, who decides what is or isn't a poll tax work. At the moment, the trade unions can only often try and pull the wool over peoples' eyes over what is poll tax work. Newham are trying to set up a committee of trade unions across boroughs, accountable to the rank and file, to decide what should be boycotted. This is an excellent idea, it means we, as workers, deal with our struggle starts and ends, not union full timers or the bosses.

The workshop on wage arrears was repored to be excellent. It was led by Ivan and a sympathetic lawyer from Hatfield APTU, who has written a detailed guide to the legal implications of the Poll Tax. Copies are available for £5 from HAPU, 72 West Green Road, London N15, (they are cheap for anti-poll tax groups). When the committee meets to implement wage arrangements, it's really important that workers are really for them. There can be no answers—your boss does the councils' dirty work for them, make him/her pay! The afternoon session was led off by Wally Kennedy, the Trade Union Liaison officer for the London Metropolitan council, and a Militant. He mainly spoke about non-payment, but after he'd finished, he suddenly remembered the Trade Union Congress conference, which had been arranged by the Militant for June in Liverpool. It's good to see Militant have finally recognised there are things as workers but I don't support them, it's too close linked, and addressing the issue of grass-roots organisation against the tax. One was on building cliques with local community nonpayment campaigns, and the other on organising a workplace anti-poll tax group. The main point was it was much more effective using official union structures. If it is possible to over learn to show them any respect. Their conference was called without the knowledge of the All-Britain Federation's Trade Union Officer, and without asking anyone in the trade union movement. It's no coincidence it's being held in Liverpool—it's the only place Militant have any strength among the Unions. Given there's virtually no time to get people deliberately to go to this, it will be a Militant rally, pure and simple. Hopefully, there will be a properly organised Trade Union conference in September. More details later.

The afternoon sessions were both basic to use them, all well and good, but the real strength of the anti-poll tax movement is at the rank and file level. If the tremendous opposition to the tax can be tapped here, it has far reaching implications, not just in the fight against the poll tax, but in the class war as a whole. As anarchists-syndicalists, we must be aware of the tactics by these involved in them. The poll tax, both in the communities and workplaces, has been a trick in this tactic. This flight presents us with the best opportunity to spread our ideas among our class in my least at. GO FOR IT!

If you are interested in getting involved in a workplace anti-poll tax group, or setting one up, contact either your local anti-poll tax group, or the Trade Union Liaison Officer, Anti Poll Tax Federation, c/o HAPU, 72 West Green Rd, London N15.

What do we propose in place of poll tax? We do not propose anything. Any civilised system of society should provide housing, education, fire prevention, road maintenance, libraries, hospitals, health. The notion that all this 'must be paid for' is a capitalist concept; the notion that it can't or can't be paid for, it cannot exist is an indication of the failure of capitalism. This is as sure as the failure of State communism in another direction (it provides the benefits such as housing but falls down in providing commodities).

If the services that come to us through the municipalities cannot be provided unless those least able to pay are taxed to the limit, in order to pay the huge tax bills for the rich, the system has become intolerable and we have to say and say no more.

The government has made it quite plain that control will be maintained. Revenue from poll tax and the municipalities has increased dramatically, with the government threatening to use the tax for political purposes. The housing tax is also a symbol of the failure of the tax system. The government is not willing to accept any alternative form of tax, and has threatened to impose it if necessary. We must stand up to this threat and fight for a system of taxation that is fair and just. We must demand an end to the poll tax and demand a real alternative system of taxation that is fair and just.
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

Dying in the 'Land of the Free'

By ALAN BERKMAN, political prisoner and defendant in the Reistance Conspiracy Case, is fighting for his life against cancer and the court's stated intention that he never leave prison alive.

Alan has served the poor and oppressed communities for 20 years. He has exposed the systemic medical neglect and torture directed against the political prisoners. A doctor, including the Antica brothers, the Puerto Rican nationalists and Sekou Olidge. Now the government uses these same tactics against Alan. Politically determined 'security needs' along with the terrible medical care afforded to most prisoners combine to make Alan's fight for life a desperate struggle of serious illness a death sentence.

Alan was arrested in May 1985 and held in preventive detention. In October 1985, he self-diagnosed enlarged lymph nodes under arm. He had a lymphatic biopsy under extreme security with armed Marshals inside and out the operating room. The biopsy showed Hodgkin's Disease.

US Marshals' interference around 'security' dictated an overdose treatment. The government stated its plan to send Alan to the Federal Prison Hospital at Springfield, Missouri despite medical experts testifying that the Springfield institute is unsuitable to treat Hodgkin's Disease.

Ongoing pressure and US District Judge Pollack's intervention brought about treatment at a cancer center in Philadelphia. Alan underwent abdominal surgery on December 13, 1985 again under militarized security. In spite of medical considerations, he was put in solitary in Chester County Prison. He had to be returned to hospital on the same basic 5 days later and had further abdominal surgery on December 28. Alan was hospitalized for 5 weeks. He was again transferred to Philadelphia Memorial and again had to be returned to hospital this time with a fever.

In May 1986, Alan was transferred to isolation in Holmesburg Prison, Philadelphia for 6 months. Alan lost 40 lbs but the cancer went into remission.

He was recommended to have regular check-ups. However, District Judge Pollack was alerted at sentencing that the Bureau of Prisons assigned Alan to a facility capable of providing this care. Instead, Alan was sent to USP Marion, the most repression maximum security prison in the USA. Prisoners live there 24-hour a day torture, conditions condemned by Amnesty International. It is well-documented that these conditions depress immunological resistence.

The Bureau of Prisons failed to comply with the specialists recommended follow-up care programs.

In May 1988 Alan arrived at the DC Jail for trial in the resistance Conspiracy Case. He was hallucinating under extreme conditions of stress and fatigue. He was at Marlen and his cousin's obtained an outdoor exercise for a few hours.

On March 19, 1990, Alan received a CAT scan which showed the uncontrolled growth of his cancer. The scan showed advanced cancer from approximately 7 cm. His doctor determined that no follow-up care is needed until August 1990. The consultation took place surrounded by DC Corrections officers armed with shotguns. The atmosphere contributed to the specialist making dangerously incorrect medical judgements.

Alan performed a self-examination and found a mass in the area of the testicles which resembled a lymph node. A doctor checked the scans and concluded that there was no evidence of Hodgkin's Disease is probable. Outside specialists and world-class diagnostic centers agree that a biopsy is urgently indicated. At the time of writing no diagnosis or treatment has taken place.

The US Government, the Bureau of Prisons and the DC Department of Corrections have created the conditions where cancer was most likely to recur and was least likely to be detected and treated. The simple fact is that Alan Berkman was not a doctor he would most likely already be dead.

Only concerted outside pressure can ensure that Alan Berkman will receive the medical care and treatment he needs—a basic human right.

Write to:

David Road, Administrator DC Central Detention Facility
1901 D Street, N.W. Washington DC 20003 USA

and Dr Kenneth Moritstein
Bureau of Prisons
Washington DC

Demand immediate diagnostic tests and appropriate medical treatment for Dr Alan Berkman.

Letters of solidarity and support can be sent to:

Bureau of Prisons
DC Federal Detention Center
PO Box 13742
Washington DC 20004 USA

Source, Toronto ABC

THE ARMAGH FOUR

NOEL BELL, Jim Heggs, Winston Allen and Neil Latimer, former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, were convicted in 1986 by a military court hearing Roman Catholic Adrian Carroll. There are considerable doubts as to their guilt, but for years the official loyalist commentators and media have been clamouring for their release by the IRA and the nationalist community was not interested until they were found guilty. Since then the four men were on the other side of Belfast's ideological Berlin Wall.

The perceptions of their families and friends from Lisburn and Armagh finally persuaded a large number of people to pressure has been applied by nationalist politicians, including MPs, began last year to highlight the campaign to release the Armagh Four. Too often it had been frustrated by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, a fact no less possible than it is with nationalists.

Many know an Irish person who got justice in English courts—it is also proven that they cannot get justice in Irish courts in the Republic either—just ring the phone and they don't help. It just happens less often on one side than another, for obvious reasons.

Though the world's media has ignored one more case of injustice in Ireland, which makes this comical, it is an example of the bricks of the 'Berlin Wall' are at last starting to crumble.

Once the campaign had broken into public notice, it would be expected that Paisley & Co would have started a campaign to run people to catch up. But people like Robert Kerr, from the other side of the Great Divide, who fought for the release of some of the early crews, joined the campaign for the Armagh Four, and members of the Birmingham Six, who have made the struggle to free their comrades into the struggle to free the Armagh Four, and their supporters, are also entering the campaign on their side.

The case for the Armagh Four is virtually unknown in England, where the Right wants to suppress the goes free or wrong. The Left has the right independence only when it affects nationalist supporters.

But it is logical, given the powers of the judiciary and police in Northern Ireland and the entire political atmosphere there, and here in Irish cases, that this type of injustice can and will occur to those who fall foul of the RUC, re-

gardless of the Divide. The Armagh Four is plainly a case where it has so done. One cannot opt out of oppression by declaring loyalty. In contrast to their British, they are criminals in Ireland, the convicted innocent of other trials also further evidence their working class background. The long run costs for far more as regards freedom than union with either Ireland or En-

gland.

GERRY CONLON didn't even belong to a Repub-

lican family. He was not associated in any way with the IRA when he was caught, and Guilded bombings. But the relatives in London who gave him hospitality, the Mag-

isons, had even less to do with Irish national-

icism. If anything, they were Catholic Loyalists. Paddy Maguire had served in the British Army. He went to the Paddington Con-

servative Club for his drinks. Possibly the family voted Tory. There were pictures of the Queen and Winston Churchill decorating the house. His wife, Annie, brought up the children like any other English kids. They spoke with Cockney accents, probably never thought much about Ireland.

Because they gave hospital to Gerry's father, they got arrested, with Paddy's brother Hughes, and his wife Kay. They got cold treatment that amounted to torture and got put in jail for the next fifteen years. Annie was arrested with her sons aged 12 and 13. Gerry's father died in prison. The others served their time. Now the judiciary say, whoops, sorry, it was all a mista-

ke.

Like the Armagh Four, or for that matter Captain Dreyfus, they turned the bitter way that Loyalty to the State doesn't save you.

HARIS TEBERKIDIS, an activist in the Greek Prisoners movement and a member of the Armagh Four, in a recent letter asking for correspondence and books in en-

ghish.

Letters can be sent to:

Haris Teberkidis
Balmoral Centre
Larissa
Larissa Greece

14100

A S REPORTED in the last issue of Black Flag John Peretti, Eric Swafford and Michael Day came off the hungerstrike they had started on February 14th. Then fol-

followed the ordering of a complete enquiry into all the prisoners demands (Draft) by the Governor of Ohio and the appointment of an attorney to represent them on the class actions covering the items listed in the demands re-

grading brutality and conditions in J1 control unit. The hungerstrikers received much support. One third (30%) of the Ohio Southern Ohio Correctional Facility refused food on the first day of the strike, 10 at Great Prison (Wisconsin) joined in for a week, and others at shoved Control Unit, Gigi Horman Women's and Wells Hall prison in Washington. There was also a flood of protest letters from all around the world and ac-

tions in Edinburgh and Manchester. Allan Rohn wrote, 'The international support was a major factor in the strike's limited success.' The demands made by the hungerstrikers were as follows:

1) Use of state transfers for all.
2) Increase of prisoners wages. No more slave labour for Ohio Prison Inmates.
3) Reduction of the incarceration/sentencing laws.
4) Closure of J1 Control Unit.
5) Ending of Unit Management and Behaviour Modification Techniques (Torture).
6) Allowing prisoners to keep their personal possessions, books, and contacts with their friends.
7) Cessation of routine beatings, macings, fire-

housings, strip-searches, and murder of pris-

oners.
8) Prosecution of all guards who torture and murder prisoners.

John is still being held in isolation and his condi-

tions both physically and mentally are very

PAGE 5 BLACK FLAG

JOHN PERETTI

PADDY MURPHY

PADDY MURPHY has been in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast since September 1989. He is on re-

mand awaiting trial for allegedly being the ex-

plosive 'semit' in his house. He was refused bail due to the 'severity of the charges' and if convicted he may face 7 or 8 years. Paddy is a well known figure in the anarchist and communist communities. He has been a member of the Irish Communist Party for many years, bucked on the basis of his commitment and con-

sciousness in the struggle to defend the Right to Organise in Bel fast, prefers to be known as such himself. He would very much like to be involved with the ABC network and is supported by Ballycastle ABC.

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Anarchists in the Second World War

The opportunity was therefore seized on the Allied invasion of France for the one movement with long experience of armed struggle to rise, with even greater momentum since so many had been taken and thrown into concentration camps.

In Italy, the Allied invasion meant a crisis in the Fascist leadership. Faced with the brutal fact of defeat, Mussolini and his friends left for the invaders, but until he did so all the parties hesitated to identify themselves with the overthrow of fascism lest it be regarded as national treason. Only the Communist Party, and also the Anarchists, formed the resistance. But this resistance spread throughout the country, and took on a social revolutionary aspect, settling the land and factories. The Fascists had come to power by seizing them back for the bosses, now they lost them again. In the parts of a long anarchist tradition some anar- chist partisans were on a parity with the Communists (despite the latter’s funding, training and equipping from abroad).

With the switch-round of the King, so making it possible for constitutional parties (which is to say the bourgeoisie) to join the resistance so far as they could (in practice, to a small extent), the Movimento Fascista di Liberazione della Repubblica (which supported by the Nazis fought to the bitter end. Several articles in the Flugblatt in both the Red and Black Years) have detailed the struggle by Anarchists from this point (some documents are available which we shall publish from time to time) and it followed a long history of resistance to Italian fascism.

If by ‘support for the war’ we mean support for governments, then the anarcho-communist aspect of this resistance could conceivably be described as such. It represented an opportunity which seldom comes in a situation of revolution when it goes against the trend of the times. That it did not succeed has to be weighed against the fact of there being no alternative but death.

In Britain, anti-fascism was professed by the government when it found that all but one of the enemy nations were under fascist rule. But the same class remained in power, only diluted by a coalition, and the officer class remained as fascist as ever it was. It was a dilemma facing anarchists and revolutionary socialists and one which finally had to be resolved in a more drastic basis.

Separation from the workers who opposed the war was too much for even a middle-class pacifism in WWII to endure it for long. The hopes that that Nazi invasion would mean a working-class insurrection and a resistance freed from the ruling class (who would certainly have collaborated with Nazi rule), or that with the end of that would come the end of capitalism, were lost with military victory in the first instance, and Labour Party electoral victory in 1945 in the second.

Smear Campaigns are Nothing New

In 1914 the Stock Exchange of Saratov had been seized by Anarchists, who then united their club. They appeared to be in the ascendant in the local soviet, a fact that alarmed many Bolsheviks and others, when suddenly the pogrom turned against them. A furious mob, mostly on the street, in the local club, the locked door, shouting, ‘Hooligan!’ ‘Anti-Christ!’ ‘Godless swine!’ ‘Shame on you!’ The door gave way and the crowd rushed in and smashed everything up. The anarchists escaped through the back door. What had taken the pogroms was their terror.

It was the publication of the infamous ‘decrees of the commune’. The story of a ‘myth’ was told in Moscow News-Engli- sh version, 4th March ’30 (p. 10) by Prof. Alexei, a professor of the university (anonymously ident- ified: i.e., to us).

The ‘decrees’ (coached in official phrasology) was painted on walls and fences all over Saratov, allegedly issued by the Free Associa- tion of Saratov Anarchists. It was dated Feb 28, 1918, stating in a preamble that because of social inequality the ‘best specimens of the fairer sex’ had been wrenched from the workers by the bour- geoisie ‘in violation of the correct perfection of the human race’. In subsequent clauses it distributed women. Men were granted ‘the right to use one woman no more than three times a month’, and after that they were issued with a certificate of their ‘working class origin’. Women were only to be relieved of their ‘rightful duty’ if pregnant, for the
Les Camps de La Mort

A LITTLE known chapter of history is the fate of Spanish refugees, who, after the end of the Civil War, believed that they were going to be ‘safe’ in exile. A great number of them were almost instantly put in camps, such as Mauthausen (then in Austria, now in Spain) and then moved to Mauthausen and Nazi concentration camps elsewhere.

The Spanish government, basing itself on the Foreign Workers’ Columns, the Foreign Legion and the marching Batallions, numerous refugees were sent to the camps. The situation was already present in 1940 along the Maginot line and the Belgian Frontier. After briefly being kept in Bialystok, where they were refused recognition as prisoners of war (negotiations between the Nazi/Francoist authorities were also allowed, they were sent en masse to Mauthausen. Upon arrival, the Nazis quickly sent the women and young children back to Spain, taking them to the camps and many others, without a trace—keeping the healthy men and boys over 15.

The first convoy of Spanish people arrived at Mauthausen on 6th August 1940. Many more were to follow until the end of summer 1941, after which individuals who were captured for their parts in the French Resistance arrived. At least 100,000 refugees were tortured. At least 100,000 refugees were tortured.

Upon arrival at Mauthausen, the first Spanish found a camp in its earliest stages of completion with only a few huts made of straw, a double line of electric barbed wire, the inmates being largely Poles, Austrians and Germans. The later batch referred to as the ‘Spanish Legions’ by the Nazi-homosexuals, anti-social, leopards’ Witness and ‘common criminals’ were sent to work. Of those whom were recruited to be in charge of the other inmates, known as ‘Kapos’

The Kapos were the prisoners given the task of properly constructing the Mauthausen campoverhead, assembly yard, building roads in the area. As well as suffering the continual harassment that all inmates in the camps faced, they had to complete the most back-breaking work, hewing blocks of granite from the quarry and transporting them to the mines, while the rest of the inmates were forced to work. Many of the Spanish prisoners lived in the central camp at Mauthausen, where the inmates were forced to do maintenance, masonry, carpentry, kitchen, cleaning, working in the infirmary, and everywhere. They were kept busy all day. However, there were Spanish people in nearly all the other Nazi concentration camps, both in special enclaves of the systematic round-ups that took place from September 1943. It is impossible to state the exact number, but there is a general agreement that it is about 10,000.

It is pointless to go on about the horrors of life in the concentration camps; it is widely known. The sole comfort was the solidarity, when there was strength to know that this would end.

Gdlle Eiser (December 1988)

A BUCHENWALD SURVIVOR

Jose Villegas Izquierdo

JOSÉ VILLEGAS IZQUIERDO is a CNT militant in the former community of ‘Cinco Camineros’ (Grenade) in Andalusia, he moved to Barce- lona when young and began working and acting in the International Brigades. In the Civil War and following years in exile, he was arrested in 1942 in Toulouse by the police of the VERAR (Organisation of Restoration and Solidarity to victims of Fascism. He had worked as a ‘worker for the textiles’ in Toulouse (a Quakers’ organisation). First imprisoned at Saint-Michel, he was transferred to the prison at Toulouse and then to Paris, and then put in a convoy of goods carts destined for the concentration camps. Several carriages caught fire, apparently accidently, but the absence of enough locomotives to pull the convoy gave the Germans the choice of aban- doning the extra carriages or burning them with prisoners inside—and Villegas is sure that they decided on the latter deliberately. (Also, a fright- ened prison guard revealed some of their secrets to Villegas was part of the sight was terrible and the German soldiers could not believe what were the cries of the SS; fifty Russians had cut their throats.

Villegas was evacuated to Belgium, then went to Paris where, on the 1st May 1945 he was brought to his comrades in the CNT who were celebrating their first congress in exile.

Victor Garcia

In Memory of Comrade Jose Pons Carceller Murdered at Gusen

Foreign Workers and was sent to work. In Collmar, he was transfer- red to barracks at Belfort with other Spanish by other Spanish Workers’ Companies, and there they were made to wear red armbands to distinguish themselves from other prisoners. Red-evolutionaries from the Spanish Civil War). On the 13th January 1941, they left Collmar in convoy, destined for Stalag XI at Fallesboud, then on to Mauthausen. Roque Llop Corvalías, his companion in detention and deportation, recalled:

‘After having filled in a detailed police form, we were shut up in horse wagons. A tiny open- ing in one side gave us the only view and venti- lation; a small amount of straw on the floor but only bedding. There were so many prisoners in each carriage that it was impossible to lie down; you could only rest roughly on your back in three to four hours a day and nights, without any idea of time or where we were heading to. The shouts of ‘Rassis’ and ‘Bussif’ on our convoy at the entrance of the Valley of Mauthausen. The SS had blown from the windows of the convoy and dog whistles out of the carriages. We went through the village and ac- cross the Danube to what had been the sanatorium but was now a concentration camp. Climbing the hill, we saw groups of people dressed in striped pyjamas, with skeletal bodies and a strange look in their eyes which were darkened into their sockets; a look of horror. A sight that was upsetting and dismaying.

We arrived at the camp on 27th January 1941, and on the 16th February we were trans- ferred to Gusen. Most of the friends and compa- rades of the 24th Company stayed at Mauthausen; as we went to Gusen, we were unaware that the executions and exterminations had grown to such an extent there, as to be beyond compari- son with any other camp. The Kapos, bat-chiefs and SS greeted us with a shower the moment we went through the barbed wire entrance to the camp. Our first task was to carry stone from the quarry to the camp, to build the perimeter wall outside the electric fence. Then we were divided up.

Marc, along with Mauthausen, Jose Pons Carceller grew considerably weaker. Work and hunger deteriorated his body and blood. His body was covered with boils. With what was available—nothing hygienic— we did what we could to relieve him of his pain and suffer- ing, which made it impossible for him to walk. In the inhuman hell of the camp, whoever was physically weak attracted the anger and brutal- ity of the SS and Kapos. He was aware of the abyss into which we had fallen and what would happen to us. This was made worse when he found out that his little brother had arrived at Gusen with a new convoy. It was a terrible blow to his morale. Physically, he was no longer capa- ble of working, and it was difficult leaving him without doing as much as we could for him. We were a camp big-shots—prisoners like us, who, due to their fear of the SS and degenerating lifestyle in the camp environment, behaved like feudal lords with the prisoners dependent on their ‘jurisdiction’. It took a lot of effort to enter the infirmary. Those who ran it were not the doctors, but ‘fat- bosses’. Jose managed to enter the infirmary with the wish to be treated. To treat his boils, they chloroformed him as they would for a major surgical operation. I don’t know if the in- fermary was ever involved, or if the SS were merely doing what had to be done. They even inserted an incision so deep that I thought he was going to die. To make things even worse, they cut from the cold—and death, waiting to be taken to the yard before being burnt in the gas ovens.

It was left to me to comfort his brother, so that he did not boil in his own tears.

The gross survival was, in fact, the. I had to leave the world of the people before—a cruel and indifferent man, opium was used by surgeons when the pain was unbearable. (Both remarks were quoted by Karl Marx, and thus he has become a secular godhead they are often thought to have originated from him).

In 1949, his wife and his children have seen his exhumation by the state, the new state.

Anonymous: Dr. Jerzy Gwirkowski, a few days before death. Mauthausen, undated.

Answers to quiz

1. The 19th-century poet and satirist Heinrich Heine cited the fact that after the world of the paintings of Napoleon, the restored Bourbon royalties came waddling back on the stage of his- tory like overwrought clowns in a comic interlude.

2. Christian Socialist writer Charles Kingsley and that evangelical religion was the opium of the people—before—socialists, opium was used by surgeons when the pain was unbearable. (Both remarks were quoted by Karl Marx, and thus he has become a secular godhead they are often thought to have originated from him).

3. Alan Rusbridger’s opera has heroes like Joe Hill, TWV organiser. The Establishment prefers to shed tears over Lohengrin and Carmen.

4. In the 1920s, Anarchists had camped- nigned against political Catholicism, and fought by individual actions against the Nazis during the war. They had not criticised the Communist Party while it was illegal, so many officials first misunderstood the anarchist position regarding the nature of the war.

5. Some anarchist political prisoners in the early days of Nazi power, finding themselves lumped in the same category as the Jews, felt it was pretty impossible to live with, took advantage of the opportunity offered by the extermination camps. The Kapos, bat-chiefs and SS greeted us with a shower the moment we went through the barbed wire entrance to the camp. Our first task was to carry stone from the quarry to the camp, to build the perimeter wall outside the electric fence. Then we were divided up.

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Obituary

Jack Uijnen

A grand old comrade of the IWW, Jack Uijnen, died last year at 99. For 22 years he had edited the Finnish language IWW newspaper, Internationale, once a daily paper, later a weekly, which expired in 1975.

How come the only daily revolutionary paper in the USA was in Finnish? The Finnish workers had a long history of struggle, and round-up squads of the century, with unemployment and blacklistings at home, many migrated—some to where they were active in founding the syndicalist SADG, either in the USA, especially hammerjacks.

In Duluth they started the Work People’s Council and turned out many IWW organizers. Jack went to the States as a quarry worker, and settled to Minnesota. When the war started in 1914, he moved on its staff, eventually becoming editor. Like a real old-fashioned revolutionist, he did everything to bring out the pauper—sweeping the floor, doing the carpentry work, running errands. Despite the drying up of Finnish immigration, and the anglicisation of the next generation, he kept the paper going until, at 93, he had to call it a day, and retire to the warmer shores of Florida. But for the last 14 years of his life he plunged away for the Finnish Workers Education Society, which owned the Kenta Hall, gathering place for Finnish folks, shot of the retirement, retired weebles.

It is good to know Jack Uijnen knew of the rebirth of the anarcho-syndicalism in Finland via Black Flag when we exchanged greetings a year or two ago.

source: Industrial Worker

Mike Baker

Mike Baker died suddenly on May 15, aged 63. Having joined the Socialist Unity Party in the GDR, on his return to Britain he became active in the Communist Party, with the Sino-Soviet split, he became a Marxist, helping to found the Committee to Defeat Revisionism for Communist Unity. However, his analysis of the Cultural Revolution led him to switch his support to the much-reviled Liu Shao Chi—the Marxist Leninist Organisation of Great Britain, of which Mike was Secretary, being one of a very few groups to take this line.

In the seventies, Mike’s indepth study of the German Revolution led him to repudiate his Leninist-Syndicalist past and adopt and advocate the ideas of the Dutch and German council communists such as Funkoeck, Rubin and Marttinen. Mike joined the London Workers’ Group where he met and worked together with Joe he helped form the Movement for Workers Councils. At the time of his death, Mike was near to completing the production of Max Havelke’s Fundamental Principles of Communist Production and Distribution which he had translated from German. Like Joe, he stressed the necessity of workers mastering political economy and felt this book would help them do so.

A small private ceremony was held at Norwood Crematorium and Mike’s comrades plan to scatter his ashes in Highgate Cemetery, The MWC in view of the world historical collapse of State socialism in the East, now hopes to open up a constructive and educational ideas with anti-market revolutionaries, anarchists and syndicalists included, on the way ahead.

Justice is our Conviction

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Ireland—The Right to Know

The IRISH FILM show which was banned last year by Southworth Council has at last found a venue. The Ritzy Cinema in Brion will host the ‘Ireland—The Right to Know’ film and video festival on consecutive Sundays on June 24 and July 1. The show will begin with a week of cultural events, including an art exhibition with slide shows by artists from June 26 to July 1, followed by a special screening on June 30 with McDermott’s 2 Hours and sons of the Deen. Both at Brion Reconciliation Centre.

The film begins at 1 as follows:

Sunday 24th The Irish Question. No Japs at My Front Door. 8.30
Tuesday 26th The Mask & Gone for a Soldier. 8.30
Sunday 1st July—Italy’s Baby, Mother Ireland. If you don’t laugh you’ll cry.

Sentence, Moving Myths, The Black Dragon.

Further details:

The Ritzy Cinema—071 737 2121
Lambeth Council—071 978 8722

Union Viewing

The Desphach Industry Workers’ Union (DIWU) ran an independent events by and for despachers on syndicalist principles—is present tonight at the Four Corners Cinema, 113 Roman Rd, London E2 on Thurs July 7.

They are showing Maitius, an epic story of two lovers against a Fascist society. Unfortunately the film is not suitable for any serious revolutionary. And also Some Mother Have Drown—Maid of Penzance may be a Londoner, ultimately a film to miss for all serious revolutionary. And also Some Mother Have Drown—Maid of Penzance may be a Londoner, ultimately a film to miss for all serious revolutionary.