

Picket

No. 19

Wednesday 9th July

Concise written reports are essential

Wednesday afternoon, 25th June, Wapping

Pickets gathered near the caravan at 2.30 and an impromptu march started going eastward along the High Road about 500 yards where they were overcome by fatigue and had to sit down in the road.

Traffic piled up and policemen looked both puzzled and frantic. Twenty minutes later the pickets feeling refreshed commenced to amble westward in the direction of Thomas More Street still blocking The Highway. On reaching the Lemn Street traffic lights some were fatigued and sat down. It was decided a group should go back to the end of The Highway to cause another diversion. Then it happened with the police in amongst us arresting the banner bearers and anyone who argued. About 24 went through the police and eastward along The Highway. The remainder were boxed in by the police.

The 24 or so got as far as Wapping Lane blocking The Highway again for a short time, when the police were seen heading in their direction, the police pushed and there were 14 arrests, taken to Southwark, held for four hours and charged with obstruction.

Saturday night, 28th June, Wapping

The usual march from Tower Hill and police roadblocks. Pickets build up at Wellclose after midnight. Small groups along The Highway. 12.15 NoW Stereo banner going east along Highway picks up groups of pickets for spontaneous march. By time it reaches Butchers Row, 100-150 marchers. Police surprised, don't catch up for 20 minutes, then not in strength. Scab coach goes by in Commercial Road. March goes back west along Commercial despite police attempts to block. No arrests, cops too thin on ground.

Tuesday afternoon, 1st July, Wapping

Several hundred pickets came together opposite Virginia St. Traffic in the area was tied up for hours. An attempt to go to the main gate was unsuccessful. A march then started westward, blocking traffic. A van stalled and its driver was arrested. The march to Dock St. was pushed back by police strikebreakers who were swarming in the area in large numbers. Ten horses were brought in to force the pickets on to the pavement and the horses mounted the pavement to force the march back to Wellclose.

Another march which went east along The Highway trapped a scab in a taxi and gave verbal. Continuing east the march was half on and half off the road, in Pennington Street, at Wapping Lane and being harrassed by cops with the threat of horses. There were a number of arrests of anyone who looked prominent. (The next day the arrested were barred from a half mile radius of Wapping. One supporter who is currently being held in prison is being barred from fifty miles.)

All the cop/court/union leaders activity is geared to an expected new ballot to seal their strikebreaking.

Wednesday, 2nd July, Wapping march and rally

The 52nd march to Wapping came off in good style - though it was quiet. Several hundred printers and supporters marched and rallied opposite the scab plant. The march was confronted by an almost equal number of police including a large number visible on horseback. They blocked the road and after 11pm moved the pickets back into Wellclose Square. Pickets could only yell "traitor" and "scab" from a distance. Despite that the march was still a success in showing the continued combative spirit of the pickets. Other pickets, who had attended a local residents' meeting in the area, made their way to the picket lines along The Highway. Some pickets went out to Glamis Road to jeer the scabs exiting from Wapping La.

Friday morning, 4th July, Wapping

A large number of pickets assembled at Wapping, blocking traffic in the entire area up to Commercial Road for quite some time. Picketing overcomes traditional rivalries between different crafts.

Saturday night, 5th July, Eastleigh, Southampton

A large number of pickets arrived at Eastleigh TNT depot in the early hours of the morning. The one security dog with his guard scampered quickly into the compound. The fence moved aside easily as pickets talked to the thirty or so scab vans, lorries and cars which readily agreed not to leave.

Small numbers of police arrived. Outnumbered the police made no arrests and pickets left satisfied.

Saturday, 5th July, Wapping

The regular Saturday night marches and police roadblocks continued from Tower Hill. Umbrellas were out. With smaller numbers of pickets present The Highway was cleared early and scabs moving freely thanks only to their police friends.

Wednesday, 9th July, Wapping

About six hundred strikers and supporters rallied for the regular Wednesday march. On reaching a line of police at Virginia St the march reversed and went through Dock St and back to St. Katherine's Way to part of Wapping, returning to Virginia Street. The marching about did not stop scab production. It did stretch out the evening demonstration.

MARCH, Saturday night, 12th July, 9pm, Tower Hill.

DEMO, Saturday night, 12th July, Glamis Road, 8.30pm,
organised by Tower Hamlets residents

DEMO, Law Courts, The Strand, Monday, 14th July, 9.30pm

MARCH, Wednesday, 16th July, 9pm, Tower Hill

Income: £1 donkey lover; £5 Mirror Graphics; £2.90 Guardian Reading Room; 50p Lesbians and Gays Support the Printworkers; £2, £2 ST clericals; £1 sacked printer's wife; 30p misc; £1.50 two pickets; 20p, 20p NGA minders; 50p, £1 Times Revisers and Copyreaders; £1 ST Natsopa; £2 misc; 50p misc; 66p sacked printer's wife; 20p, 20p engineers assistants; £1 warehouse; £1 Sun Machine; £1 Greater London Sogat; £1 clerical; £1, £1, 50p pickets; 50p, 50p, 30p, 10p Sun Publishing; £2.50 resident; £5 minder NGA.

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Published by picketing print union members