

Socialist Voice Special



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International Socialist League International Workers League Fourth International



Peter Windeler
Rest in Power
Life long fighter, Marxist
and internationalist

LIFE OF THE LIT (IWL)

A special issue of Socialist Voice on Peter's contribution to the ISL, IWL-FI, the struggle for Marxism and for the workers' and oppressed struggle

COVID – Deadly Profitable

Peter Windeler – ISL/Britain (posted posthumously)
<https://litci.org/en/66921-2/>



Last night we received the sad news of the death of comrade Peter Windeler, a very important and valuable member of the ISL, who was 70 years old and maintained a great revolutionary disposition and vigour.

Peter wrote several materials for the IWL website and, as well as speaking publicly, was preparing to go to the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggle meeting in Dijon.

We would like to express our sympathy to our IWL comrades in England and Wales and our condolences to his family.

IWL International Secretariat – 31 January 2022

“There are those who struggle for a day and they are good. There are those who struggle for a year and they are better. There are those who struggle many years, and they are better still. But there are those who struggle all their lives: These are the indispensable ones.”

Bertolt Brecht



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A friend, fighter and internationalist

Martin Ralph
International Socialist League

It is with great sadness and pride I am writing Peter Windeler's obituary. First we extend heartfelt condolences to Peter's wife, son, grandchildren, his two sisters and brother.

It was shocking to receive the news that Peter died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of 30 January. He was 70 years and had been awaiting an ultrasound scan for his heart as some tests had picked up an irregular heartbeat. Peter was very fit and he never complained of illness or tiredness.

Just hours before he died, at about 7.30 pm on Saturday, we were texting about our next ISL meeting. On Saturday afternoon he had played lacrosse – a physically demanding team sport which he loved.

Peter recently completed writing an article on the Covid pandemic, "Covid – Deadly Profitable", which has been published on the litci.org/en website. On Thursday, just two days earlier, he spoke on behalf of Stockport Trades Council at a "Stand Up To Racism" meeting which was dedicated to remembering the holocaust and commemorating all who had suffered genocide. There is a live video recording of the meeting, and Peter made a well-informed and moving contribution.

In January, Peter spoke enthusiastically about attending the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggle meeting which is to be held in Dijon in April – he had been delegated to attend by Stockport TUC. As an Internationalist he was always keen to meet with, discuss and share ideas with comrades from across the world.

Peter was a lifelong activist and he never tired of reading and studying Marxism, its history and theory, often also reading novels that dealt with struggle.

Peter was born in Stockport. As a student, he joined the WRP in London and moved back to work in Manchester. Later he was a founder member of the ISL.

His first job was working in Ardwick, Manchester at the Avon Moseley Rubber factory, owned by the Moseley family. Many of those who had worked there for years suffered from misshapen backs from years of toil. They worked in cellars, winding by hand large machines which made the rubber compounds to produce synthetic rubber. Peter used to



say that the conditions in the factory would have recognised by Charles Dickens. Peter subsequently worked in a bank before he became a teacher years later.

Peter was a stalwart comrade of the ISL; he attended almost every branch meeting, he would write an article nearly every week for the Socialist Voice or the website. And from 2018 he started travelling to IWL international meetings in Belgium and Spain as part of the ISL team.

The struggle to build the IWL and rebuild the Fourth International was a central part of Peter's life.

Margaret McAdam
International Socialist League

I read the message from Sue Windeler about the death in his sleep of her husband Peter – initially I could make no sense of the words, but as they blurred into realisation my thoughts, condolences and sympathy reached out to Sue, their son and grandchildren and Peter's siblings.

Peter was a quiet and sensitive, considerate person with a keen sense of humour, he was a private person and yet very public in his politics and his principles.

I think also of our loss, he was our comrade and our confidante. I can picture Peter now, in his smart suit and tie, a classy Trotskyist who would have been a match for Trotsky himself in his style.

Peter dedicated his adult political life to the fight for socialism. He was well-read in the writings of our historical teachers Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. Peter keenly studied class

struggle history recognising its importance as a tool to be to understand, analyse and develop the tools to build a socialist programme for the world.

He was also an avid reader of contemporary literature and regularly developed serious analyses and critiques of contemporary bourgeois journalists and analysts. Peter selflessly shared his knowledge, ideas and thoughts in his discussions and writings. In his last article, he wrote about how Covid exposed the absolute degeneration of capitalism – it was well researched and thorough and Peter clearly exposed the contradictory nature of capitalism.

Peter jointly worked with Martin Ralph writing for the International Socialist League publication Socialist Voice and on reproducing the writings of Bill Hunter (who led the ISL from 1988-2015).

Lacrosse and fishing were two of Peters' passions which helped him remain not just a very smart, committed and principled Trotskyist but a very fit Trotskyist too. We have yet to learn of the cause of Peter's death but we can be certain that if there were such a thing as an afterlife he would be with all the great Trotskyists who have gone before, fighting for socialism and organising a Lacrosse match and a fishing trip.

Peter was well respected and admired in the international (International Workers League FI) and will be deeply missed by us all. The ISL knows we have suffered a great loss – but Peter will always be here – he contributed to building our consciousness' in the knowledge that we are building a better world and better future.

Peter lives on – socialism always."

Remembering Comrade Peter



From a meeting in Brussels with Belgium, French, and Swiss

Workers Communist League (Ligue Communiste des Travailleurs) Belgium Matthieu

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the death of our comrade Peter. We send our condolences to his family, friends and comrades of the International Socialist League.

We remember him as an extremely gentle, caring and enthusiastic comrade. Peter was a discreet and generous comrade who spoke with equal passion about his work, political situation, and fishing trips in his native Scotland, which shaped his incredible accent.

He had come to Belgium in 2018 and 2019 during the North European meetings of the IWL, where we discussed the political situation with comrades from France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Russia. Then comrades of the LCT met him again at the meeting in Spain on trade unions and the revolutionary party, where it was again an opportunity to exchange and benefit from his political experience and his practice of revolutionary internationalism.

Peter's loss is even more difficult because it is sudden. He has gone without warning, leaving us orphaned of a valuable comrade who is already sorely missed.

Peter, you will live on in our memories and each of our struggles,
Peter Windeler, present!

Matthieu



The ISL thanks the International Workers League fourth international leaders and members and the contacts and sympathisers who knew Peter for wonderful messages of condolences from three continents.

Some comrades only met Peter on zoom because of Covid, as the ISL, during Covid had regular national meetings with our comrades living in five cities. Some had only just joined the ISL before Covid.

We have forwarded all messages to Peter's wife, Sue and son.

Danny "Oh, wow. That's awful, just awful. I never met Peter in person (only on zoom), but he was a gent and a bit of a quiet powerhouse. Sad, sad news. Rest in power."

Margarido, PSTU Brazil "I just can't believe it. I met Peter, and he was just what Danny said and more. I don't know what to say. We lost one of us. My condolences to his family."

Etiandro The militancy is part of me, not because I chose the militancy, but because I inherited a burden that forces me to be a soldier in the working class! It was in the militancy that I realised how sacred human life is, it was in the militants that I met Ladies and Gentlemen, it was in militancy that accounted for the true pulse of the inside of the Human Being.

It was also in the militancy that I realised that, what is right, so hurt becomes wrong, that what is beautiful, in a fraction of seconds becomes ugly, anyway! It was in the militancy that I proved the poison of falsehood! Yes, it was in the militancy that I realised that for many, Comrade, it was just a simple term!

But it was the same militancy that Comrade Peter Windeler gave me, it was in militancy that I found a brother. I don't say it just because he's not here today! Comrade Martin Ralph and Comrade Margaret Mcadam are witnesses. His distrustful look was the reason for the love, attachment and admiration I developed for him. I will stop here, but with the promise to continue your fight and, if I can withstand the capitalist pressure.

And if one day I see some revolution triumph, I will clench my fist and raise it high and scream with all my might, in memory of Comrade Peter Windeler. May the earth be light, rest in peace COMBATANT.

Dawn Taylor - Secretary of Stockport Branch National Education Union

"Over the many years I knew him, Peter demonstrated he was one of the most committed trades unionist and international activists I have had the honour to know.

Peter was an endless store of knowledge and of perspective – he just knew how to draw down on his knowledge and understanding to make ideas and campaigns accessible. Most importantly, he used his skills to always challenge injustice.

Peter truly was also an exemplar to us all of how to work with others, preferring to find points of agreement rather than points of difference and putting the interests of the movement, and of the working class as a whole at the forefront of everything rather than that of any particular party or group.

Stockport has lost a great campaigner, and the voice of international social justice will be lesser without him."

Alison Treacher - President of Stockport Trades Union Council

"He was a very knowledgeable comrade and knew so much about socialist history. His passing is a great loss to the movement."

Ashley "Peter was a great socialist and revolutionary, we would often talk during the car journey to meetings, events etc., not just about politics, but also history and personal interests in our private lives. I always greatly enjoyed our talks together; I will greatly miss Peter, a dedicated comrade and friend."

Ollie "Just awful news. In shock. Peter was a lovely man and a good comrade. Truly devastating. Heartfelt condolences to his wife and family and to all who knew him. Very sad day for the ISL and the LIT-CI."

Michael "That's just terrible mate. My condolences to his family and loved ones. May our comrade's memory be a blessing."

Bampha "This is so sad to hear a very dear comrade standing with justice for people will be dearly miss may God have mercy upon him and the love ones pass all rest in peace. Sad to hear sad to hear!!!"

A workers and political struggle in Stockport

John Pearson



I first met Peter when we were founder members of the Stockport branch of the Socialist Alliance in 2003. I became Secretary and Peter became Treasurer. It soon became apparent that Peter was a highly committed internationalist, revolutionary socialist. In our branch's political discussions, his input was informed by his extensive knowledge of working class movement history and of Marxist theory. Peter was very dependable and could always be counted upon to play a leading role in organising work, in demonstrations and street work.

In 2005, under the banner, 'Democratic Socialist Alliance – People Before Profit', we mounted our first electoral campaign, with me as the candidate, in the Stockport Council election in the Brinnington & Central ward, where Peter's energy and enthusiasm was invaluable. This was the first of a large number of election campaigns, right up to the most recent one, in that same ward, in May 2021. Peter keenly engaged in conversation, as we leafleted the ward, with anyone who showed an interest, or who just wanted to talk.

Peter was always keen to bring theory into practical work and to offer appropriate loans from his voluminous book collection. During one of our latter election campaigns, he discussed with me as we were working and then lent to me his copy of a very informative book, 'Lenin's Electoral Strategy' by August Nimtz. Previously, he had lent me 'Trotsky on Britain'.

Sadly, the Socialist Alliance was one of a number of socialist unity projects – preceded by the Socialist Labour Party and followed by Left Unity – which failed due to the political opportunism of the leaderships, who inevitably came from the larger of the participating groups, such as the Socialist Workers Party and the International Socialist Group. I joined the Stockport branch of Left Unity, upon its foundation in 2014 and Peter became a member in July 2016. As well as its electoral work and an active programme of political discussion meetings, in several of which Peter conducted the opening presentations, Stockport Left Unity supported the united front organisation, Stockport United Against Austerity (SUAA).

SUAA had been founded, out of a successful campaign in 2015 against cuts in mental health services within the Borough. Left Unity members took up leading roles in SUAA. Peter, for his part again became Treasurer, a role he performed for many other organisations too.

SUAA became a prominent campaigning group in Stockport, fighting the year-on-year neo-liberalist onslaught upon public services and welfare provision, which was targeted at the working class. One of SUAA's most sustained campaigns was support for social security claimants, at a weekly stall outside Stockport jobcentre. Peter was a regular participant in the job centre campaign. As SUAA was a united front, with active members from the Green Party, the Labour Party, the SWP,

as well as Left Unity and the ISL, it did not do electoral work. The latter fell, initially, to Stockport Left Unity.

In 2017, the undemocratic bureaucracy which led, (sorry, misled), Left Unity pulled the plug on electoral work, because it no longer wished to stand against Labour Party candidates, (be they of the left, or the right wings of the Labour Party), after Jeremy Corbyn had won the 2015 Labour leadership election. Myself and the Branch Chair, Ashley Walker, were suspended indefinitely, without recourse to the proper disciplinary procedure, when the branch resolved unanimously to support an 'End Austerity' candidacy in the Brinnington & Central ward.

That candidacy was the first of a series of collaborations with the Old Swan Against Cuts group (OSAC) in Liverpool, which was led by members of Peter's party, the International Socialist League, in running 'End Austerity' election campaigns. Peter was a stalwart of OSAC's campaigns and, whilst continuing to support OSAC's work in Liverpool, he brought his energy, enthusiasm, and his experience, to the organisation of our End Austerity campaigns in Stockport. How we will manage without Peter, should we go ahead with a campaign in May 2022, presents us with a daunting challenge!

In 2019, Stockport Trades Union Council, to which Peter was a delegate from his National Education Union branch, played a leading role in organising the bicentenary commemoration of the 1819 Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, of workers fighting for the right to vote. Peter immediately brought his historical knowledge to bear, finding invaluable archive material documenting the prominent role of Stockport workers in the movement at that time. He presented his paper, 'Stockport and Peterloo' at a meeting of the post-Left Unity forum, Stockport Socialist Discussion Group.

Peter was a lifelong, dedicated, principled revolutionary socialist and trade unionist who will be greatly missed by all of the people who knew him and organisations he was a part of. The legacy of his work will endure!

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Peter's family and to his comrades of the ISL and the IWL.

Stockport and Peterloo a period of uprisings

Peterloo Massacre Monday 16th August 1819 – 200 years on

Peter Windeler

The tensions that occurred throughout the 18th and 19th remain issues in Stockport today. Stockport is an area of wealth with pockets and areas of poverty – a town where rich and poor co-exist. Today in Stockport while the homeless sleep on the “beach” under Merseyway, a mile away “four-by-fours” disembark pupils at the town’s private grammar school.

“Stockport is renowned throughout the entire district as one of the duskiest, smokiest holes, and looks indeed, especially when viewed from the viaduct, excessively repellent. But far more repulsive are the cottages and cellar dwellings of the working class, which stretch in long rows through all parts of the town from the valley bottom to the crest of the hill. I do not remember to have seen so many cellars used as dwellings in any other town of this district.”

Frederick Engels, 1845

At the time of Peterloo, Stockport was established as a manufacturing town with as many factories as Manchester. Throughout the 18th century the process of industrialisation had gathered pace as capitalism sought to profit from the fabric trade. As towns expanded and workers relied on wages the ebb and flow of trade led to periods of extreme poverty. The 18th century saw a rise in protests so to control the situation in 1714 the Riot Act was enacted. A series of revolts and riots erupted particularly during 1760s. 1780 saw the Gordon Riots and at the turn of the 19th century rioting broke out in Stockport because of food shortages.

In the run up to Peterloo, Stockport’s main products were silk, cotton and hats, with a reliance on out-workers (handloom weavers contracted to the mills, producing semi-finished work on looms in their own homes). Technological changes resulted in handloom weavers losing livelihoods disappear, leading to the Luddite movement.

In 1812 Luddites attacked factories and the property of the wealthy which had worse consequences than the Reform movement with 17 Luddites executed in York.

Early 19 century life expectancy for a worker in England was 17 years whereas for a professional it was 38 years. The abject poverty of workers in Stockport drove them to “visit” the homes of the wealthy, something happening all around the northwest!

In Stockport workers were driven to armed robbery and strikes continued to be a tool in the armoury of the working classes. Industrial unrest became part of



the lives of workers which started to evolve into political demands which were present in the Gordon Riots but in Stockport and in the 1790s locals started to call for the right to vote, developing in to the Reform movement. Prior to 1832 only property-owning men people could vote. Reform Act of 1832 saw Stockport’s first MPs.

Stockport’s working class began to find its feet, thus its property owning classes created a Volunteer Force in 1794, to break up strikes and demonstrations which was disbanded in 1808 and replaced by a militia, and a Yeomanry was formed in 1810. As an amateur cavalry with each member supplying their own horse thus members would have been at least lower middle class, from 1818 regular troops were stationed in the town.

At the same time, John Lloyd a lawyer

was the clerk to Stockport magistrates and a diligent servant of the ruling class, hiring spies to report on activities of the working class and also a member of the Stockport Yeomanry and militia. In 1816 Lloyd secretly organised a force of special constables armed with pistols, shot and powder to confront striking hand loom weavers.

Stockport saw food riots between 1795 to 1812. In 1799 there was a riot in Stockport due to escalating corn prices that affected the price of bread. In this instance the target was the local merchant Bradford Norbury – a corn factory. By 1812 food welfare policies had to be set up in the town but this didn’t stop a riot, which resulted in four workers being transported to Australia.

The growing ferment in Stockport was reflected in the other northwest towns, but Stockport had its own characteristics. The closeness of the two antagonistic classes, the working class and the bourgeoisie, created a crucible for the conflict to be played out.

Workers’ wages were cuts in 1816 and 1817 although trade rose in 1818, which was to see a major conflagration once again. Wage cuts had created a strike but the factory owners had started to bring in scab labour. On the 15th July 1818 striking workers outside the Garside factory fought a pitched battle against the police and the Stockport Yeomanry. The following day, reinforced by the Manchester Yeomanry, the fight continued resulting in the death of a worker.

Alongside the industrial unrest there was the added ingredient of the Reform movement. As early as October 1818 there was the creation of the Union for

Stockport and Peterloo a period of uprisings

the Promotion of Human Happiness. This bizarrely named group was influenced by the ideas of Thomas Paine, but its main aim was to give the vote to working men. Meeting weekly at the Windmill Rooms (until recently was the site occupied of Hollingdrakes.) The following year the Stockport Female Society was formed.

The reform movement was largely middle class however, they realised that the only force that could move the ruling class was the working class. Workers joined the Reform movement and channelled workers' anger at poor wages, bad living conditions and the lack of job security.

Henry Hunt, a wealthy farmer from the South West and well known spokesman for the Reformers arrived in Stockport in January 1819 to stay with Joseph Johnson, a Stockport brush-maker. Hunt addressed a crowd in Stockport on the 17th January and in front of 10,000 workers accused the government of "murder for hanging workers, referring to earlier the executions of luddites. At this meeting the "Cap of Liberty" was again displayed.

In February 1819 he held another meeting when at least 2,000 attended but an attempt to break it up was made by Stockports' Yeomanry and special constables directed by Lloyd. On 19th April 1818 another mass meeting was attacked by Special Constables who were stoned by the crowd, resulting in the jailing of three workers.

Things came to a head at a Reform meeting, once again at Sandy Brow, but this time with 20,000 in attendance. The Cap of Liberty, which represents the French Revolution, was on show. Again the Yeomanry and Special Constables attacked the crowd but in reaction a weaver shot a special constable. Afterwards Lloyd ensured that the weaver was hung.

Both Manchester and Stockport had a meeting place where vast crowds of workers gathered, Sandy Brow in Stockport and Peters Field in Manchester. The towns were almost twins, they had a similar number of factories, as did Bolton to the north.

However, in Manchester there was also a development, which supersedes what was happening in Stockport, there was the growth of working class leaders. Just like the bourgeoisie had John Lloyd in Stockport, in Manchester the workers had John Bagguley. He proclaimed that

he was a "Reformer, Republican and Leveller".

Here was a man who appeared on the scene as a fresh faced 17 year old. The one thing that set him apart from the vast bulk of other weavers was that he could read. Most workers were illiterate – there were not even Sunday schools, but Bagguley's parents could both read and therefore so could John.

Very soon he was speaking to vast crowds throughout the Manchester area. Later Bagguley moved to Stockport and opened a school teaching workers to read in the evenings.

Bagguley organised a march to parliament to present the MPs with a petition for one man one vote and annual parliaments. This march became known as the "Blanketeers March". All people had to do was turn up with a blanket and they tried to march 10 abreast all the way to London. Each marcher carried a copy of a signed petition. The march was arranged to start from St Peters Fields on Monday 10th March 1817. By 11.00 a.m. there was a crowd of 60,000, money was collected and the marchers set off.

Local magistrates unsuccessfully attempted to disrupt the start of the march. To stop the marchers at Stockport, John Lloyd organised Stockport Yeomanry waiting at the bridge. The march was disrupted and 163 marchers were arrested. In the melee the Yeomanry sabred to death one of the marchers and many others were injured by swords and trampling by horses. Some managed to get through but another 180 were arrested at Macclesfield. Others reached Derbyshire but were arrested on conspiracy charges. Eventually one man, Arthur Cauldwell, made it to London and handed over the petition. The Blanketeers March resulted in several hundred workers being jailed.

There was unprecedented repression against the working class during this time. Habeas Corpus was suspended, and the Combination Acts were used to suppress the trade unions and stop meetings.

The state used a network of spies and agent provocateurs, and eventually jailed all working class leaders in the run up to the planned reform meeting that was due to be held at St Peters Field on 9 August 1819. The main speaker was to be Henry Hunt.

There would only be the middle-class

radicals on the platform. The meeting was eventually delayed by a week and finally took place on Monday 16th August 1819.

The imprisonment of the workers' leaders such as Bagguley gave Henry Hunt an opportunity to become the leader of the movement. Some accused Hunt of being an opportunist, however he became a lightning rod for the movement, for which he served two years in jail in the aftermath of Peterloo.

Peterloo, a class rising

As time ticked towards the events on St Peters Field on 16th August, similar meetings took place around the country with 60,000 workers attending a meeting in Birmingham and 150,000 attending one in London.

What needs to be said is that the government was worried about the unrest especially in the north.

1,500 marchers went to Peterloo from Stockport. Crowds of workers converged on St Peter's Field from all the surrounding towns. As the masses arrived at St Peter's Field a crowd of 160,000 had amassed. The authorities had 1,000 soldiers and 500 policemen. As the meeting started the magistrates ordered the police to arrest all the speakers and the constables made their way to the platform. At the same time the magistrates ordered the yeomanry to charge the crowd killing a two-year-old in the arms of its mother.

The regular cavalry also charged around and joined bloody mayhem. Workers were attacked by their local squirearchy.

Workers under attack attempted to defend themselves throwing bricks and stones at the rampaging troops and using iron railings as makeshift weapons. The crowd of 160,000 were surrounded from all sides and the only escape route was through houses surrounding St Peter's Field.

500 were injured and 11 killed, with reports of some injured dying after doctors refused treatment on hearing where the injuries were sustained, underlining the class nature of the events of Peterloo.

In Stockport we have to ask has anything changed?

Peter Windeler - 27 January 2022 speaking on behalf of Stockport Trades Council Stand Up To Racism Holocaust memorial meeting



As you may be aware, Trades Councils bring together trade unions in particular localities to fight and defend workers' rights and working conditions. Although I am now a representative on behalf of teachers, in the 1980s I was a representative of bank workers in particular, a delegate to Stockport Trades Council from the Manchester Barclays branch of the bank workers union.

I worked as a lending officer at the Moseley Street branch of Barclays. It was a hectic job. More and more work was being done by less and less staff – as is the way with work. However, one customer who was Austrian would often ask me to chase up his pension from the Austrian government, as it was frequently delayed. I am afraid that one day I must have shown a bit of impatience and to my surprise, the customer asked me to see something. He rolled up his sleeve and on his arm was the tattoo of his death camp number. Needless to say, whenever that customer came in any other work pressures I may have felt evaporated immediately and from that moment on I gave this holocaust survivor my undivided attention.

Two weeks ago, I marched with the Stockport Trades Council banner on the Kill the Bill (the Policing bill currently going through parliament) march in Manchester. From St Peter's Square we marched up Moseley Street, where I used to work in the bank. The street is named after the Moseley family who made their money in the factories of Manchester and whom Oswald Moseley came, the leader of the British Fascists

in the war and an avid supporter of Hitler. Ironically before working in the bank, I worked for Avon Moseley, a rubber factory in Ardwick which had been one of the Moseley family factories. The conditions that some workers toiled under would have been recognised by Charles Dickens. Some workers in the factory worked in workshops in cellars, winding by hand large machines that looked like the old fashioned clothes wringers, these were the colanders that mixed the rubbers' compounds to make synthetic rubber. The workers who had worked for many years had backs misshapen from their years of toil.

The holocaust holds a very special place in the lives of all trade unionists. The Holocaust Memorial Day remembers all mass killings, not just those committed against the Jews by Nazi Germany.

At the moment I am reading Stalingrad by Vasily Grossman, a novel on the war in Russia. In a footnote he explains that during the first two days of the Nazi occupation of Kiev 30,000 Jews were executed and in the following six

months 100,000 were killed. Also, he describes the notorious gas vans that the Nazis used to kill Jews and others during their invasion.

I learnt that the gas vans were an invention of the Russians, first used in Stalin's purges in 1938-39. One victim of the purges was the writer Isaac Babel who was Jewish and is famous for his Red Cavalry Stories. His short story, The Story of My Dove Cote, is about his life as a child in the Ukraine in 1905, the year of the first Russian Revolution, and the death of his grandfather in one of the pogroms that year.

We must always be vigilant and never allow the perpetrators of genocides to be able to get away with it. Whether it is Assad in Syria or closer to home Harold Wilson's Labour Party, whose government in the 1960s assisted in the genocide of 500,000 in Indonesia. Only last Sunday, The Observer reported on Britain's secret propaganda war, with more evidence that has come to light revealing British involvement in the incitement of hatred against the victims and the heavy involvement of GCOH. This is a long-standing story, in 2002 the journalist John Pilger, wrote about how the British Royal Navy was involved in escorting the killers.

To quote Pilger:

There were bodies being washed up on the lawns of the British consulate in Surabaya, and British warships escorted a ship full of Indonesian troops down the Malacca Straits, so that they could take part in this terrible holocaust.

Stockport Trades Council says:

- Never Forget the Holocausts!
- Never Forget all the victims of Nazi Persecution!
- Never, ever again must anything like it be allowed to happen!

