

BASH THE FASH (1)

ANTI-FASCIST RECOLLECTIONS 1984-93

K. BULLSTREET

This is literally a no-punches pulled account of Anti Fascist Action's fight against fascism in Britain by a grassroots anarchist member of AFA. It is important, not because he makes any pretence at being a leading light but because the many small (or not so small) contributions such people make are key to the success that AFA achieved.

Written with honesty and a sense of humour, the tale of challenging the fascists for control of the streets – and winning – never descends to political cliché or reads like a pools forecast.

Obviously, a changed political environment requires different tactics from the anti-fascist movement, but it's equally clear that, if we don't record our recent success (because it is the success of AFA that changed the landscape,) our enemies will write us out of history. Here's an insight into the true story.

"It must be said that the fascists don't have a very good record in the courage department. They often like the skinhead haircut, bomber jacket and Doc Martens to look hard, but they rarely 'walk the walk'. Of course large groups of them like to attack vulnerable targets, but if they expect some opposition they are not so brave. At Hyde Park once three coachloads of them (ie 100 - 150) jumped off their buses and came screaming towards 20 AFA comrades who stood their ground. As the fascists got nearer some started to lag behind, then the leaders slowed to a jog, then a walk, then they just stood at a distance shouting abuse until the police arrived. Wankers."

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RECOLLECTIONS
1984 - 93

K. BULLSTREET

**Albert Meltzer I Couldn't Paint Golden Angels:
Sixty Years of commonplace Life and Anarchist**

Agitation

Starting out as a schoolboy Anarchist at the time of the Spanish civil war, to involvement in anti-nazi plots, this autobiography records them all, including Albert's last physical – but not political – fight against fascism at Lewisham in 1977.

Albert Meltzer was involved in so many struggles that this autobiography represents a large helping of European (and further afield) anarchist history, too.

Written with wit, and showing the dedication which kept him going for those sixty years of activism, this book is a great read – and if you think it's too pricey, order it from your local library.

A gentle and generous soul who is one of the leading figures in British anarchism (Duncan Campbell)

The doyen of the British anarchist movement (Special Branch)

AK Press & Kate Sharpley Library, 1996. 386p, ill. 22cm. 1-873176-93-7 paperback £12.95

Kate Sharpley Library

KSL: Bulletin of the Kate Sharpley Library

The KSL bulletin carries news and reviews from the library, as well as reprints and translations of articles from our archives and overseas publications that would otherwise be unavailable. From anti-fascism in Newcastle to Duval's escape from Devil's Island, the KSL bulletin is your gateway to the kind of history they never taught us at school!

Kate Sharpley Library, quarterly, 8p, 30cm.

4 issues £3(5)/6(10) - UK/Overseas (institutional rate)

Sample copies are available for 50p plus postage

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K. BULLSTREET

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K. Bullstreet
Bash The Fash: Anti-fascist recollections 1984-93

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Anti-Fascist Action / Fighting Talk
BM Box 1734
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Tel: 07000 569 569

Des Patchrider The Couriers are Revolting: The Despatch Industry Workers Union 1989-92

Anarcho-syndicalism on bikes! An insiders account of the ups and downs of organising an anarcho-syndicalist union in London's despatch industry. Full of bright ideas to make the boss's life a misery, this pamphlet shows just how much it is possible to achieve with a handful of dedicated people, without the TUC being forced to call a general strike on their behalf!

"Lively and candid" – *Industrial worker*
"Honest and funny" – *private hire and courier*
Kate Sharpley Library, 2000 26p. 21cm. 1-873605-67-6 pamphlet
£1.50

Albert Meltzer

Anarchism: arguments for and against

AK Press have recently issued an updated version of this classic introduction to anarchism, reflected in the objections that other ideologies – from Marxists to fascists – make to it, and including a section on ordinary people's views of anarchism.

The text has been revised and this is now a small book rather than a pamphlet – lacking the amusing but sometimes baffling cartoons from earlier editions – and is well worth acquiring, even if you have a copy of an earlier edition.

AK, in their inimitable style, say that it's a perfect stocking filler, but more than that it is a cracking introduction to anarchist ideas (from one who was never afraid to put his money where his mouth was) and even old hands may pick up some handy debating points.

AK Press, 2000. 96p. 17cm. 1-873176-57-0 paperback
£3.95