

Marxism Today

May 85


75p

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Ken Livingstone

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the miners' strike

The Second World
War revisited

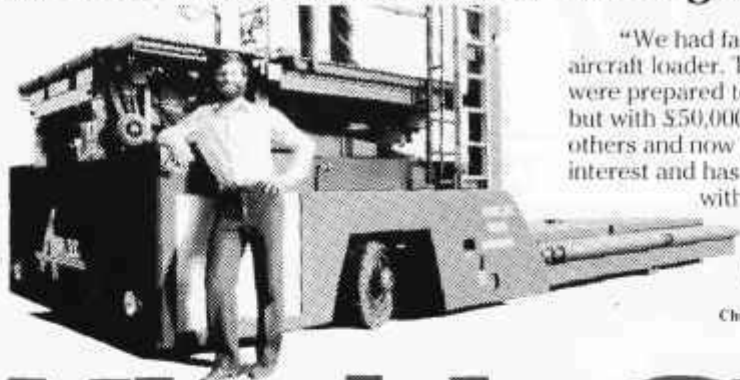
Interview with
Trevor Griffiths



Ken's Turn

Realignments on the Left

"Without GLEB we'd never have got off the ground"



"We had faith in our computer-controlled aircraft loader. This faith was shared by GLEB who were prepared to back us — not just with words but with \$50,000. Their confidence persuaded others and now our loader has attracted world-wide interest and has been undergoing successful trials with several leading international airlines. It's true to say that without GLEB we'd never have got off the ground".

Chris Ross, M.D. Ailer

What is GLEB?



"You could say GLEB bound us together"

"We had just come back from our Xmas break when the collapse was announced. Suddenly, a 200 year old tradition in bookbinding was over and we were on our own. We'd read about GLEB in a union journal, so we put together a rescue plan and went to see them.

Our main assets were 42 skilled workers and the goodwill of our customers. GLEB provided extra finance and with the union helped us develop a new style of management. Now we all have a stake in the company and we haven't looked back. You could say GLEB bound us together, saved our jobs and kept alive one of London's oldest craft industries".

Tony Winwright, Jnr. M.D. Standard Bookbinding

"GLEB provided the perfect recipe for growth"

"We started off in 1977 using all my own recipes. At that time it was mainly Eastern snacks that appealed to the ethnic population. But as our popularity grew, so did we, and we desperately needed more room. GLEB helped us with a \$150,000 loan that will mean more jobs and purpose-built premises — the perfect recipe for growth".

Mrs. Manjo Karia, M.A. Bissu Foods



"We had the capacity — GLEB provided the rest"



"When GLEB acquired recession-hit T.R. Creighton they not only saved the last foundry in London — they saved 75 jobs. Now through an expansionist programme financed by the Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, and vigorous marketing, we can provide more jobs and take our place as a force in heavy ferrous and lighter non-ferrous casting. We always had the capacity — GLEB provided the rest".

Tony Brookes, M.D. Essex Foundry

"The EEC put its money behind this GLEB high-tech scheme"

"Women have been ignored for too long in the world of information technology. That's why the GLEB launched this training course for women microelectronic technicians, based at the London New Technology Network in Camden. The EEC saw the scheme's value for women and joined the Greater London Training Board in providing financial backing".

Joy Tasker, Course Instructor



"With GLEB's help we can now win a whole new range of contracts"



"We had more print orders than we could cope with. Our turnover had increased five fold in 3 years, but most Banks are simply not interested in providing the sort of development capital that co-ops need. Luckily, GLEB have a less blinkered, longer term view. Their loan of \$200,000 meant we could install a four-colour press, treble our workforce and win a whole new range of contracts".

Tom Reed, Administrator, Lithosphere

"We're working for ourselves. It's a marvellous feeling"

"When our previous employer moved to Crawley, 100 of us couldn't move home. That meant redundancy. Then the GLEB acquired the 2.5 acre site — and saved our jobs. The new London Production Centre will provide units for London's electronics industry. That will mean 400 jobs when the space is let. Now we are working here in new companies the GLEB has set up through London Production Centre Ltd. And, through a workers' trust, we share in running them. It's a marvellous feeling. We can really achieve something for ourselves, and we are doing our best to make it work".

Ivy Crook, Production Worker, London Production Centre



GLEB - putting the life back into London's industry

The Greater London Enterprise Board
is the GLC's industrial development agency. For further details contact:
GLEB Information, 63-67 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BD. Telephone 01-403 0300.

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Working for London

Marxism Today

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The campaign against rate-capping is not what it might have been. The GLC, in particular, ended in a debacle. The whole affair may prove something of a turning-point in local Labour politics. Realignments are not just on the agenda, they are well underway.

14 1945 and all that Basil Davidson

This month sees the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism in Europe. The Thatcherites would prefer us to forget it. Not surprisingly, for it doesn't fit into their picture of history one bit. But what does it offer us today?

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We asked a range of people to give their views on the significance of the defeat of fascism in 1945.

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Democracy and socialism are intertwined. Unless people believe that socialism will be *more* democratic than capitalism, then it won't happen.

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