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Lenin at 16 Percy Circus, London

Why was Vladimir Lenin lodging with Liberal Candidate Phillip Whitwell Wilson and his family at the height of the first Russian Revolution in 1905 and how did his friend and press colleague, Henry Brailsford get embroiled in an assassination attempt at the Hotel Bristol in St Petersburg that same year?

16 Percy Circus, St Pancras — 1905

Lenin arrived in London, via Berlin, at the back-end of April 1905 for the 3rd Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. Little is known about the congress, shrouded as it was in the utmost secrecy. The first revolution in Russia had got underway in January of 1905 and the two-week summit in London between April 22nd and May 10th would just about coincide with a violent, month-long mutiny breaking out on the Imperial Russian battleship, *Potemkin* (June 1905). The general feeling at the congress was that conditions were now at fever-pitch. In her 1930 memoirs, Lenin's wife Nadezhda Krupskaya described how the third congress 'bore quite a different physiognomy' to those held previously. Definition had been brought to the revolutionary organisations in Russia and these were taking the form of 'illegal committees working under drastically difficult conditions of secrecy' (*Memories Of Lenin*, 1930). Krupskaya also recalls that plans to arm the Petrograd workers were based around a massive haul of weapons to be purchased and smuggled into Russia from England on the London steamship, *SS John Grafton*, and to be crewed by East End and Whitechapel sailors. And although the plans proved fruitless (the ship was mysteriously wrecked just off the Finnish coast carrying 5,000 rifles and 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition), the confidence of trusted parties was more aggressively sought than before. A raid on the party's Central Committee had just taken place at the home of Leonid Andreyev in Moscow, and those members who were still at liberty to travel were instructed to reconvene in London. The identity of the venues was cloaked in secrecy for a reason.

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But that doesn't mean to say there aren't some clues.

16 Percy Circus and Philip Whitwell Wilson MP

The address that Lenin used during his stay in London for the 3rd Congress was 16 Percy Circus in the Clerkenwell district. The property was located minutes around the corner from Holford Square where Lenin had stayed during his first visit in 1902. Today you'll find it sporting a respectable blue heritage plaque, just across the road from the *Travelodge Royal Scot*. The area at the time of Lenin's visit was set out on a south-facing embankment in a classical layout; a handsome arrangement of Squares and gardens offset by various rectangles. The roads here were wide and generous, quite different from others in the city. The houses were tall and impressive and the air was good.

When Vladimir Lenin lodged here in 1905, the property was the family home of parliamentary journalist and Liberal MP, **Philip Whitwell Wilson**. Wilson was to run successfully for St Pancras South in 1906 as a Radical and Liberal candidate and had the same knightly earnestness (if not the looks and the charm) as the young Victor Grayson. Wilson had been unanimously adopted as candidate in January 1905 and came from a well known family in Kendal in the Lake District. Interestingly, the former editor of *Granta* was one of four staff writers at the *Daily News* standing as candidates in London that year.



In May 1905, just one year before being elected MP for St Pancras South, Philip Whitwell Wilson let Lenin use his home at 16 Percy Circus

Why historians have neglected to mention the part played by Philip Whitwell Wilson in Lenin's early revolutionary activities remains a mystery. That a soon-to-be-serving Member of Parliament played host to a suspected terrorist at the height of an ongoing revolution just has to be worthy of mention, but to date, it's escaped the attention of most. And this is a shame, as Wilson's generous input might yet offer a clue to a mystery that has long since baffled academics: which venues did Lenin and the Revolutionaries use for the 3rd Congress? And the reason why it might offer a clue is fairly straightforward: Philip Whitwell Wilson was a senior council member of *Whitefield's Central Mission* – something of a dynamo among the close-knit circle of churches in Central London offering refuge to the Russian exiles.

The mission, Nonconformist/Congregationalist in outlook and practice, had been set-up on Tottenham Court Road by Liberal MP and Minister, **Charles Silvester Horne**, after a donation of £8,000 from Mrs Elizabeth Rylands, wife of Manchester textile millionaire and philanthropist, **Sir John Rylands** in 1903. The mission, also known as *Tottenham Court Road Chapel* served under the auspices of the *London Society Missions*. The missions' chief representative in Russia had been Stepney Minister, Edward Stallybrass, whose missions in Irkutsk and Selenginsk served to 'correct' the ungodly ways of the Mongol-descended Buryats.

2563	McCann, Michael	15 Percy circus	dwelling house	15 Percy circus
2564	Wilson, Philip Whitwell	16 Percy circus	dwelling house	16 Percy circus
2565	Kemp, Jonathan	20 Percy circus	dwelling house	20 Percy circus

Electoral Register 1905-06 (England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1832-1932, Archive reference: SPR.Mic.P.316/BL.F.1/4)

In Herbert T. Fitch's *Traitors Within* (1933), the former Special Branch detective describes a passionate flurry of smaller meetings taking place at three public houses in the Islington area. A steady roll call of biographers, academics and unscrupulous pub managers have put forward a handful of likely candidates over the years: *The Crown and Woolpack* on Clerkenwell Green, Walter Brett's *The Duke of Sussex* at 106 Islington High Street; William J. Reed's *The Cock Tavern*, 27 Great Portland Street and *The White Lion*, 25 Islington High Street. *Wetherspoons*. But as it was various East End Missions that had provided venues for the 2nd and 5th RSDLP Congress, it seems plausible that Wilson and Horne's chapel on Tottenham Court Road could also have been among the handful venues used in addition to the Islington pubs in April and May that year. And if it wasn't the Whitefield Central Mission, then we could well be looking at other Wilson-related venues like the **Liberal and Radical Club** at Grafton Lodge on Prince of Wales Road, or **Cleveland Hall** in Fitzroy Square. Cleveland Hall fits the bill just nicely as it's where Kropotkin had attended a meeting of international revolutionists in February 1887. By 1905 the hall had been taken over by Carmarthen's **Hugh Price Hughes** of *West London Methodist Mission*, so the Police may have been looking elsewhere.

Why was Lenin boarding with Wilson at Percy Circus?

Compared with the 2nd and 5th Congresses, the 3rd Congress came together in a fairly improvised but no less blistering fashion. The series of meetings had been initiated by Father Georgy Gapon, the Russian Orthodox priest who'd led January's Bloody Sunday demonstration in St Petersburg. The massacre that ensued set in motion a remarkable chain of events that would later be aggregated and repackaged as Russia's '1905 Revolution'. Some six weeks later in March, Father Gapon escaped to London and in April, the 33 year-old leader of the *Russian Worker's Club* organized a series of emergency meetings that would bring together all the principal Russian revolutionary groups. The meetings had been galvanised in part by the arrest of Leonid Andreyev, Evgeny Chirikov, Ivan Bunin, Stepan Skitalets and other members of the Sreda literary circle in the last week of

February that year. The circle, which included several members of the RSDLP's Central Committee – including Gorky – were questioned over the assassination of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich outside the Kremlin Palace, just days before (*Manchester Guardian*, 25 Feb 1905, p.9). The assassin was Ivan Kalyayev, aspiring poet and fringe member of the group. As a response the plans for the Congress were switched from Russia to London, whose Police, in contrast to those in France and Germany, had no formal relationship with Russia's 'secret' police, the Okhrana.

During this period Gapon's mood is known to have changed from one of peaceful action to 'change by any means necessary'. Gapon's meeting with Lenin in Geneva in the week immediately prior to the *Bloody Sunday* demonstration (January 22nd) was the clearest indication yet that 'the moment of open struggle for Russia's masses' was fast approaching (*Memories of Lenin*, Nadezhda Krupskaya, 1933, p.89)

The eighteen organisations invited to Comrade Gapon's conference included The Socialist-Revolutionary Party, the Vperyod R.S.D.L.P, the Iskra R.S.D.L.P, the Polish Socialist Party, the Lettish Social-Democratic Labour Party and the Bund (see: Lenin's "A Militant Agreement for the Uprising and V. I. Lenin The Third Congress of the R.S.D.L.P). Gapon met Lenin on the 3rd day of the Congress (April 14th) which saw the so-called 'Council of Reform' draw up a series of uncompromising demands: the immediate release of all political and religious prisoners, the creation of a republic with freedom of speech and free press, an autonomous government for Finland and the ultimate establishment of a democratic federation for the Caucasus (*London Daily News* 02 May 1905).

For the duration of the congress, Anarcho-Socialist Rudolf Rocker provided Gapon with full run of his home in Mile End, Stepney Green. The address was 33 Dunstan House. Just two months later Dunstan House would also provide refuge to the fugitive leader of the Potemkin Mutiny, Afanasi Matushenko.* There were additional claims in the *Manchester Courier* and *Dundee Courier* on May 1st that Gapon had also stayed in Harrow and Ravenscourt Park – a favoured meeting place for William Morris, Dora Montefiore (who lived at nearby Upper Mall), Sergey Stepniak (Society of Friends of Russian Freedom) and the early Socialists. Wilson's colleague at the *Daily News*, David Soskice also claims to have sheltered Gapon at his home at 90 Brook Green, Hammersmith – a home that Soskice shared with his mother-in-law, Catherine Hueffer, wife and model of Pre-Raphaelite artist, Ford Madox Brown and mother of *Parade's End* novelist, Ford Madox Ford.

A Little Help from Henry Noel Brailsford

The man widely regarded as Gapon's 'campaign manager' in London was **Henry Noel Brailsford** and like Lenin's host, Philip Whitwell Wilson, Brailsford was a senior journalist at the *Daily News*. Wilson and Brailsford also served on Parliament's Balkan Committee, formed in 1903 as a result of escalating tensions (and complete ignorance) over Macedonia. The Committee was

chaired by Scottish firebrand, James Bryce MP, who, like Grayson, had honed his oratory at Owens College, Manchester. *Man Who Was Thursday* novelist, G.K Chesterton also sat on the committee. Two years later Brailsford would seek funding for Lenin an attendees of the 5th Congress of the RSDLP. The generous donor on that occasion was American Soap Magnate, Joseph Fels, whose market-leading *Fels-Naptha Soap* was based around a hydrocarbon mix of Russian Crude Oil and Coal Tar (The Golden Echo, Chatto & Windus, 1953, David Garnett). The compound also formed the basis of many early explosive devices. Just 12-months prior to the Congress, Joseph Fels had been sued by the *Mercantile Marine Company* when their steamer, the *SS Haverford*, exploded on entering the docks at Liverpool carrying 90,000 pounds of Fels-Naptha Soap. A total of fourteen men were killed (*Liverpool Daily Post*, 14 July 1906, p10). Interestingly, Lenin's 5th Congress associate, Rosa Luxemburg identified Russian naphtha as the "most important and vital economic resources of the revolution" (see: *Spartacus*, No.11, 1918 & *The Industrial Development of Poland*, 1898, Rosa Luxemburg). Luxemburg was one of the many delegates that accepted the £1700 loan from Fels (about £150,000 in today's money). Josef Stalin, the young bandit who pretty much held the Naphtha refineries to ransom during his time in Baku as strike leader and extortionist, was another (Stalin's protection racket played a key role in launching and resolving the strikes at *Caucasus Naphtha Company* and the *Baku Naphtha Company* in February that same year, briefly driving up the price of Naphtha).

That the *Daily News* provided an exhaustive review of Gapon's 'Story of My Life', suggests there were strong lines of communication between the paper, it's editor Alfred George Gardiner, and revolutionary poster-boy, Father Gapon (see: *Daily News*, 27 Nov 1905). Gapon's book, purported to have been written by Gapon but most likely to have been ghost-written by the DN's Brailsford, G.H Perris or David Soskice, was published in November 1905 by *Chapman and Hall*. Again, it's an interesting link as it was *Chapman and Hall* who'd been the first to publish Charles Dickens, the founding editor of the *Daily News* (the company had also just published Bennett Burleigh's *Empire of the East: Japan and Russia at War 1904-1905*). The fact that the newspaper's Theodore Rothstein, served as Soviet Ambassador in the 1920s may also indicate deeper level of collusion as Lenin is known to have made frequent visits to Rothstein's home in Clapton Square that same year. The house was owned by Rothstein's father-in-law, Isaak Kahan, a Russian-born shipping and banking broker whose student daughter Zelda would become a founding member of both the *British Sociliast Party* and the *CPGB*.

Lenin lodging with Rothstein's colleague, Philip Whitwell Wilson at 16 Percy Circus might well be viewed in this context.

Sadly the relationship between Gapon and *The Daily News* didn't end as positively as it had begun.

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Just as he was securing funds for Gapon's return to Russia, Brailsford was charged by Police with passport fraud. The Metropolitan Police had found Brailsford and Manchester-based actor, **Arthur Muir McCulloch** (formerly of 29 Percy Street) having fraudulently obtained three English passports for use by Russian exiles, including one for **Maximilian Schweitzer** who had died in an explosion at the *Hotel Bristol* in St Petersburg in February that year (see: *Boston Daily Globe* 22 May 1905, p.18). The plot dated back to *Bloody Sunday* itself when Boris Markov, a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party's *Battle Operation* was arrested in St Petersburg. It's believed Markov was in town to coordinate an attack on several targets including Grand Duke Alexandrovich and Governor-General Trepov. The plot was uncovered when the bomb-maker, Schweitzer blew himself up prematurely at the Hotel Bristol. The Police claimed that the dead man possessed a passport in the name of McCulloch and the pair were subsequently arrested. Brailsford's involvement was a serious blow to the Balkan Committee and the Liberals' ongoing relief efforts in Macedonia. Brailsford admitted full responsibility for his actions, confessing that he had been asked by 'someone he knew connected with the Russian Revolutionary Movement' to obtain passports on his behalf. The man, a leading member of Russia's Constitutional Movement and currently living in exile on the continent, had assured Brailsford that the passports were to be used as part of a peaceful demonstration. Brailsford and the Foreign Office refused repeatedly to name the man (*Manchester Courier* 07 June 1905). The passport had been signed by Lord Lansdowne, the man who had also just signed the landmark [Anglo-Japanese Alliance Trade Agreement](#) at his home in 1903.

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Did Lansdowne and the Foreign Office play a clandestine role in Lenin and Gapon's 1905 bid to supply rifles and ammunition to the Revolutionaries in Russia? It's certainly possible. At the time the plot was hatched, Russia was not only at war with Britain's new trading partner Japan, it was also ramping-up plans to set-up naval bases in the Persian Gulf. On learning of these plans, Lansdowne made vociferous objections in Parliament, declaring 'without hesitation that his Majesty's Government would regard the establishment of a naval base or any other fortified port in the Persian Gulf ... a very grave menace to British interests' (*Manchester Evening News* 06 May 1903). The *Dogger Bank Incident* of October 1904, when the Russian Imperial Navy had fired on a British fishing trawler, killing three British workers, had breathed fresh life into those concerns, and it's curious to note that that Schweitzer's fraudulent passport had been issued to McCulloch and signed by Lansdowne at the Foreign Office that same month (October 28th, 1904).

The fact that the *SS John Grafton* had been purchased for the purpose by Japanese army officer and intelligence agent Akashi Motojiro, makes the whole thing quite plausible. And as far as diplomacy with Japan was concerned, the move would certainly have been a positive one.

Father Gapon survived until March 28th 1906 (O.S) when he is alleged to have been murdered at a villa in Oserki, just outside St. Petersburg, by Socialist Revolutionary and alleged spy, Pinchas Rutenberg – believed to have been in hiding in London's West End (*Daily Express*, 13 August 1906). Gapon's death coincided with the mysterious suicide of **Helene de Krebel**, aka Marie Derval, at the Liffen's Hotel in Pimlico and just a short walk from the Russian Embassy at Chesham Place. By a strange coincidence, the hotel and its owner, insurance agent George Liffen, featured in another mysterious 'closed room' suicide in 1911 when 46-year-old Jahanna Smerecka was discovered with gunshot wounds to her head in her guest room. Baptismal and marriage certificates, written in Russian, were found in her possession. The woman had married in Chernivtsi in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (present day Ukraine) and her death came shortly after the arrest of Fraulein Trombooke who had been spying for Russia's Imperial Forces in Austria, most likely under the supervision of Alfred Redl.

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Like Krebel, Smerecka had spent the previous weeks in America, and also like Krebel Police found a handful of mysterious keys wrapped in brown paper in a 'secret pocket' of her coat (*Leeds Mercury* 16 October 1911, p.3). The following year George Liffen, now proud owner of the 'comfortable and convenient' Alexandra Hotel in Hyde Park Corner, was unfortunate enough to suffer another foreign casualty in his charge, when newly arrived Italian, Gino Masini was found gassed in his room (*Nottingham Journal* 21 August 1912, p.5). At the Westminster inquest no parallel was drawn with the previous suicides on his premises, but the danger of 'loose taps' was raised. Liffen was able to reassure the jury that the 'faulty gas taps' had 'been seen to already' and no further questions were asked.*

In his 1933 memoirs Special Branch detective Herbert Fitch describes Krebel as the mistress of Georgian anarchist, **Warlaam Tcherkesoff** (Varlam Cherkezishvili), a close friend of Sergey Stepniak and an associate of Prince Kropotkin and Rudolf Rocker. The middle-aged woman was found dead in her room on March 14th 1906. It is alleged she had been hounded to her death by revolutionaries who'd suspected her of spying and had been pursuing her actively across America and Europe for some two years or more. A sentence of death was hanging over her. The waiter at the hotel claimed that on the morning of the 14th Krebel had received a letter 'which upset her terribly' and had locked herself in her room. She had 'wept, shrieked aloud and walked the room as one demented'.

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Three weeks later, revolutionary poster-boy, Georgy Gapon was also dead.

But the twists didn't end there.

Just a month before his death, Georgy's brother, Sergey Gapon, a captain in the Russian army at Port Arthur in China, was arrested for being drunk and disorderly by Police in Eastbourne. The date was March 3rd 1906 (*London Daily News*, March 1906 p.12). After a short hearing it was decided that Sergey would be expelled under the Aliens Act and was removed to Lewes Prison to await deportation. Shortly after his release from Lewes Prison, Sergey Gapon was also dead. His body had been pulled from the sea at Hastings on the very day that Helene de Krebel had checked into the Liffen's Hotel in Pimlico (*Derby Daily Telegraph* 13 March 1906, p.3)

One Other Curiosity

In the final week of April 1909, Lenin's Clerkenwell and *Iskra* associate, Harry Quelch gave a talk at the Gaiety Theatre in Fife entitled, '**War and the Social Revolution**'. John Maclean, who became Bolshevik Consul in Glasgow in the post-revolution period, joined Quelch as speaker, as did George Gunn and Baile Cormie. Quelch warned of the dangers of war and the impact that war would have on the progress of the Social Revolution that was already underway in British Society. In Quelch's estimation, war was the one safeguard of the capitalist system, and that the great burden and risk of war fell primarily on the working classes. War and its possibilities would hold back the Socialist Movement and hinder Social Revolution. Whilst capitalists could be heard deprecating war they were 'all the time producing things that made war inevitable.' (St Andrews Citizen, May 1st 1909)

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In October 1915 Lenin's 16 Percy Circus host, Philip Whitwell Wilson had used exactly the same incendiary phrase in an article published by *The Fortnightly Review* entitled — yes, you guest it — *War and the Social Revolution*. And although he may not have arrived at the same bleak conclusion, the basic premise was just the same. In an extraordinary twist Wilson also divulged that much of what he was about to write was based on a 'private conversation' he had had with the recently deceased Lord Rothschild (April 1915). Wilson had been accused of abusing his parliamentary privilege in the past so this kind of candour wouldn't be totally out of character, and it certainly might explain the polarity of views being offered in the finished article.

Was Wilson's recycling of Quelch's phrase a coincidence? I suspect not. Just as it probably wasn't a coincidence that the phrase, and the broad complex payload it carried, was recalibrated and re-served some twenty-five years later by Joseph Goebbels and the Nazi Party as part of their ongoing propaganda programme: *Der Krieg Als Soziale Revolution* (War as Social Revolution).

Alan Sargeant, October 2018:

<https://independent.academia.edu/alansargeant>

* That Lenin had met with Gapon ahead of the *Bloody Sunday* demonstrations, and in view of the way that a dedicated support network was able to spring into action almost immediately after the massacre, one really has to question the spontaneity of the *Potemkin* and *Sunday* events. What was the exact nature of the relationship between Lenin, Gapon and Matushenko prior to 1905, and to what extent were the Worker's and Naval uprisings genuinely grassroots phenomena? By the time the *Potemkin* mutiny took place, Matushenko, a non-commissioned officer and former oilman, was already an active member of the 'minority' (Bolshevik) section of the *Social Democratic and Labour Party*, although his exact activities are still a matter of debate among historians (see: *The Revolt of the Potemkin*, 1908 Konstantin Feldman). Some have Matushenko beginning his revolutionary life as a docker during the violent demonstration of March 16th 1903 in Rostov-on-Don – a student and worker march led by Samuel Gurvich, Chairman of the Rostov-on-Don *Soviet Worker's Deputies*, but carried out under the auspices of Lenin associates [Sergei Ivanovich Gusev](#) (Yakov Drabkin) and [Alexander Samoilovich Lokerman](#) who visited Lenin in Secheron, Geneva in 1903 as part of the 2nd Congress (Memories of Lenin, Nadezhda Krupskaya, 1933, p.66). Incidentally, Lenin's library contains a copy of a book that Gapon presented to Lenin on the 3rd day of the congress in 1905. The book is signed, 'To the most honoured comrade, Lenin by way of good memory by the author, April 14th 1905" (April 24th on the London calendar).

* Can't help but notice that George Liffen gave his son the name Theophile, which is French-Swiss in origin and an unusual step for a man who appears to have been born in Great Yarmouth. George Theophile Tideswell Liffen served as Second Lieutenant in the Prince's Own Regiment during the war that followed. The most famous Theophile during the period in which his son was born was Theophile Gautier.

Who is Philip Whitwell Wilson?

- Born in Kendal in the county of Westmorland in 1876 to **Isaac Whitwell Wilson**, wealthy woollen manufacturer (b. 1833) His grandfather John Jowitt Wilson had served as Justice of the Peace.
- Maths graduate of Cambridge and former president of the *Cambridge Union Society*.
- April 1899, marries Alice Selina Collins at Central Falls Congregational Church in Rhode Island, near Boston. She is the daughter of Henry Collins.
- Makes an incendiary address to the Liberal & Radical Association on the abuse of Chinese Labour (Slavery) in mines in South Africa (p.7 *Shoreditch Observer* 28 October 1905)
- As a *Radical and Liberal MP* for **St Pancras South** from 1906-1910 he enjoyed the support and confidence of many Labour organisations.
- Introduces the first Unemployed Workmen's Compensation Bill into Parliament.
- Related to Industrialist and Liberal MP Isaac Wilson (director of the Stockton and Darlington Railway)
- Journalist for the left-wing **Daily News** (1907-1917) founded by Charles Dickens and owned at this time by George Cadbury. Its editor was Alfred George Gardiner. Serves on the paper from 1910 as Parliamentary Columnist.
- Stands as Liberal candidate for Appleby in Westmorland in December 1910.
- Council member for **Whitefield's Central Mission**, Tottenham Court Road.
- 1912 sees the publication of Wilson's *The Beginnings of Modern Ireland*. Published by Maunsell & Company, owned by Belfast publisher, actor and Celtic Revivalist/Gaelic League supporter George Roberts.
- In April 1915 he publishes, '**The Unmaking of Europe**', an uncompromising take on the first five months of the war and the motivations for the war.
- October 1915, **War and the Social Revolution** is published.

- In 1918 he becomes American correspondent for the Daily News before moving to the New York Times.
- 1920 sees the American publication of Wilson's *The Irish Case Before the Court of Public Opinion*. Published by Boston Unitarian, D.L Moody's Fleming H. Revell Company.
- In 1927 he publishes the *Greville Memoirs* (based on the politically scandalous diaries of Charles Cavendish Fulke Greville)
- Dies in New York in 1956.

War and Social Revolution (Philip Whitwell Wilson, *The Fortnightly Review*, October 1915)

Although clearly owing a great deal of debt to Harry Quelch's 1909 lecture of the same name, Wilson takes adopts a curiously Victor Grayson-esque take on the war's impact on the ongoing Social Revolution. In fact, it's difficult at times to know whether he is backing the war simply on the basis that it will eventually destroy the very capitalist system it props up, or whether he is experiencing the same fears as Quelch about the burden it will heap on the working class. So on balance, it's fairly balanced. It's an 'everybody's a winner, everybody's a loser' kind of thing.

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Here is the basic gist:

- Forecasts the social and industrial problems that are bound to arise as soon as war finishes. Addresses the war's ongoing effect on transport and the coal trade. Says the scale of upheaval are "all the more formidable because its causes are obscure and its range incalculable."
- Wilson suggests that some of these "obscure causes" were defective education ('chronic evils, still un-remedied') and volatile conditions in South Wales coal mines which bred fault on both sides (meddling trade unions etc).
- Repeats Lenin's belief that real change comes with the desire not to just revolt but the will to organise and govern.
- Addresses the 'mysterious disaffection' experienced by working men and women despite the very real progress made in provision. Says that although progress has been made existing legislation was 'inadequate'. Describes it as 'ambulance work' providing solutions and relief to only the most desperate cases. These changes 'scarcely modified the status quo'. The 'rewards when converted into coin, left little change at the end of the week.'
- Wilson leaves some criticism for the hyperbole of the press, aggravating the situation by sensationalizing the greed and waste of a disconnected London 'regime'.

- Interestingly he talks of a very private conversation with **Lord Nathaniel Rothschild**. He says Rothschild was of the opinion that the war would give the working man bargaining power (through scarcity of labour as a result of enlistment). This would lead to an increase in wages.
- Wilson talks of enlistment into the armed forces as a 'leveller'. It gives rise to closer contact between the class extremes, and to the blurring of boundaries (and taken to its logical conclusion, the complete erosion of British class structures over time.
- Wilson posits that it will be impossible to 'renew the old fabrics of industry' after the war. Men will not want to go back to their old ways. They will demand a voice (Grayson said much the same thing in his lectures in New Zealand prior to enlisting, repeating Lenin's belief that it could train and prepare men for the revolution that would follow the war). As Wilson says, "*To turn swords back into ploughshares will be a formidable task, but far more delicate will be the handling of immense bodies of men whose minds have been unsettled by the collapse of the old regime and by their one hour of glorious life.*"
- The article is a well-balanced, cautionary tale warning of an 'artificial boom and bust' for the working man and the unemployment and desperation that might well follow.
- Unusually Wilson looks to the economic rebuilding opportunities the war will bring: "*the reconstruction of devastated areas must be as boldly financed as the war itself*" Indemnities "will take years to clear off ... loans must be made in the form of houses and goods for Belgium, Poland, Serbia, and the French Provinces." Warning or celebration? It's really very difficult to tell.

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Lenin @ 30 Holford Square— 1902

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'*Traitors Within*', 1933 Herbert T. Fitch

'*The East End Years: A Stepney Childhood*', Freedom Press, 1998, Fermin Rocker

'*War and the Social Revolution*', Fortnightly Review, April 1915, Philip Whitwell Wilson

Lenin and the British Museum Library, Solanus Volume 4, p.3, Bob Henderson

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'*Memories of Lenin*', 1933, Nadezhda Krupskaya

The Tsarist Secret Police and Russian Society, 1880-1917, New York University Press, 1996, Fredric S. Zuckerman

Letters from Brailsford to Soskice, 1905, *Soskice Papers*, SH/DS/1/BRA/22

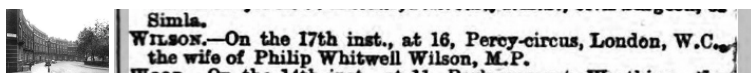
Conspirator: Lenin in Exile, Helen Rappaport, 2009

The War and the Social Revolution, Philip Whitwell Wilson, *Fortnightly Review*, October 1915

The Story of My Life, Georgy Gapon, *Strand Magazine*, Vol 30, Issue 175, July 1905

Mr Brailsford's Motives, *Manchester Guardian*, 05 August 1905, p.09

<http://spartacus-educational.com/RUSgapon.htm>



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2568 Worsley, James	26 Percy circus	dwelling house	26 Percy circus
2569 Roker, Alfred	27 Percy circus	dwelling house	27 Percy circus

FATHER GAPON.

MURDERED BY A JEALOUS COMRADE.

A JEWESS THE CAUSE.

THE MURDERER NOW IN HIDING IN LONDON.

One of the most interesting accounts of the murder of Father Gapon was published in the London Standard on the 27th inst. It was written by a correspondent who was in St. Petersburg and was based on the information furnished by the Russian revolutionary leader, the late Father Gapon, who was killed on the 22nd inst. The account is a most interesting one, and is well worth reading. It is a story of a man who was killed by a man who was his comrade, and who was killed by a man who was his comrade.

THE MURDER.

Father Gapon was a Russian revolutionary leader, and was killed on the 22nd inst. He was killed by a man who was his comrade, and who was killed by a man who was his comrade. The account is a most interesting one, and is well worth reading. It is a story of a man who was killed by a man who was his comrade, and who was killed by a man who was his comrade.

THE MURDERER.

The murderer of Father Gapon was a man who was his comrade, and who was killed by a man who was his comrade. The account is a most interesting one, and is well worth reading. It is a story of a man who was killed by a man who was his comrade, and who was killed by a man who was his comrade.

THE MURDERER.

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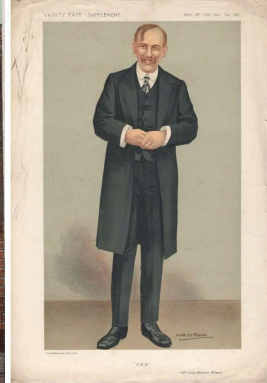
PASSPORT CONSPIRACY.

Englishman Named McCulloch, an Actor, Charged With Obtaining One to Give to Revolutionist.

LONDON, May 22.—An Englishman named McCulloch, who is understood to be an actor, and who procured the passport found on the body of the bomb manufacturer killed by an explosion of one of his bombs in the hotel Bristol, St. Petersburg, on March 11, will be among those arraigned at Bow-street court tomorrow on the charge of conspiring to obtain passports for unlawful purposes. The officials here decline to furnish the names of those implicated, but it is said that McCulloch is a well-known writer on political subjects, and that the trial will include the details of a regular system by which foreign sympathizers with the liberal movement in Russia furnished political propagandists with passports in the names of subjects of other powers, thereby enabling the propagandists to enter Russia.

A man who was blown to pieces while examining a bomb in a St. Petersburg hotel, some months ago, had a passport bearing the name of Arthur Henry McCulloch, but he had not spoken English customarily as the Russian secret police learned after the explosion.

Caught. Miss Passay (copy)—I saw the cutest painting today of the—what is the



FATHER GAPON'S BROTHER DROWNED.

WASHED INTO THE SEA AT HASTINGS. The foreigner washed from a groyne at Hastings on Sunday evening and drowned is stated by the Eastbourne police to be Serge Gapon, the Russian, who claimed to be a brother of Father Gapon. A week ago the man was charged at Eastbourne with being drunk and disorderly, and was recommended to be expelled under the Aliens Act. He was removed to Lewes Prison, but was released on Sunday. The man returned to Eastbourne, and intimated that he was going to Folkestone or Dover to see the Russian Consul. At Hastings he was seen holding on to the railings defying the waves. Gapon then walked down the steps, and a wave came and washed him away. Gallant efforts were made to rescue the man, but when the body was recovered life was extinct.

SENSATIONAL TURN OF HOTEL MYSTERY.

IS MRS. CUSHING ALIVE? Sensational fiction is completely put in the shade by the extraordinary state of affairs disclosed yesterday in connection with what has come to be known as the Pimlico hotel mystery. On March 11 a lady occupied rooms at Liffens Hotel, Gillingham street, Pimlico, and on March 11 she was found dead in bed as the result of poisoning by creosote exhalation. A letter left behind pointed to suicide. Every care had been taken by doctors to destroy her identity. She even went so far as to say that the name signed at the foot of the letter which she left, "Marie Derval," was assumed. She was buried at Woking as "a woman unknown." At the inquest inquest Mrs. Gertrude Wood, wife of an American speculator, declared that the dead woman was her sister, Mrs. Laura A. Cushing, wife of a Boston millionaire. She admitted that she had not seen her sister for some months, and that on the last occasion when she passed her in Oxford-street they had not spoken. Still she was convinced of the dead woman's identity—she recognized the handwriting as that of her sister, and a perfume and purse as being her property. She also referred to a possible family malformation of the third finger of the deceased's left hand, a trace of which she said was discernible in the glove found in the bedroom at the hotel. The Coroner, however, was by no means satisfied that the deceased's identity had been established. The mystery deepened yesterday, when the following letter written by the real Mrs. Laura A. Cushing appeared in the columns of the Paris edition of the "New York Herald":

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1911	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1912	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1913	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1914	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1915	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
1916	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1917	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1919	26	27	28	29	30	31	1

THE EVENING NEWS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1911.

SUICIDE IN WEST-END HOTEL. Mysterious Foreigner Who Spoke No English.

THE DYING BILL. Charter of Charwomen. Evesing's Opponents to Insomniac Scheme. L.C.C. Comedy of W. Strubbers.

TITILE CONFERENCES.



NSDAP GAU WIEN PROPAGANDAAMT / PRESSEAMT

In der letzten Folge der Wochenzeitschrift 'Das Reich' veröffentlichte

REICHSMINISTER DR. GOEBBELS

nachstehenden Aufsatz:



Philip Whitwell Wilson

Mr. Philip Whitwell Wilson is one of four members of the staff of 'The Daily News' who are candidates for London citizenship...

THE DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1905. WITH FATHER GAUN. HIS STORY OF THE MASSACRE. SHEET DOWN LIKE DOGS.

MURDER OF THE JOHN GRANTON. The first "official" announcement that the new House was based on the bill of the House of Commons...

Preferred U. S. to Germany. He exhibited the ambiguity of the Democracy of England and that of the United States...

BRITAIN PUTTING BY EMPIRE FOR MANKIND

Glories of Conquest Yield to Service, Says Wilson

London Times Man Sees Only Ulster Preventing Home Rule

Great Britain is done with the glories of empire and the future will see her in cooperation with America and the other democratic countries of the world...

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902.

UNIVERSITY MAN, speaking French, Russian, knowing German desires a POST or PRIVATE SECRETARY...

A RUSSIAN LL.D (and his Wife) would like to EXCHANGE RUSSIAN LESSONS for ENGLISH with an English Gentleman (or Lady)...

ST. DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER.

Sailors' and Firemen's Union '87; was imprisoned during Cardiff strike... Wilson, Philip Whitwell (L.), elected for St. Pancras, South D., Jan. 15th, 1906...



may be charged to them.

WILL THERE BE WAR?

The Chairman said they had chosen that Sunday for their meeting because, notwithstanding the position of Mr Asquith and the Government and the Opposition as well, they saw that there was a fear that we were on the verge of war—war in a sense that no living person in this country had ever known. No living person could recollect the foot of the invader being on our shores. It was evident that the danger was likely to be first seen on the shores of the Firth of Forth. It was not for nothing that all those preparations were being made, and that these battleships were continually moving about our waters. The Socialists had sources of information as well as the Government and the Opposition, and they also feared that war was dangerously near. Harry Quelch was no scaremonger, but he had sources of information open to him that were closed to most people, and for that reason they had taken that opportunity for hearing him speak. (Applause.)

Comrade Quelch said that some of them connected with the paper *Justice* were accused of being scaremongers, but Socialists claimed to be in favour of peace always. They, however, believed there was a danger of war, and they demanded, before everything else, that the people of the nation should be informed of what was going on. They

the people should be informed what was going on in foreign affairs. There was an idea that Mr Chamberlain had wanted the war with the Boers, but no idea could be more mistaken. It was the results of war that were wanted by the capitalistic forces behind Mr Chamberlain, and these were much stronger than the Government. Of course, now we had got the South African mines we were very prosperous in consequence. (Laughter.) Since the death of Queen Victoria our foreign policy had been in the direction of isolating Germany, and that policy had gone far towards the forming of a war party in that country. This should be prevented as far as possible, but unless the people knew what was going on, how could they prevent it? It was inconceivable, with all this preparation on the part of Britain, that there was no apprehension of hostilities on the part of Germany, but the people should be made aware of what the fear was. (Applause.) While capitalists were deprecating war they were all the time producing things that made war inevitable. It was only waste that would keep the capitalist system going, and the productivity of the country in proportion to the labour employed was growing immensely. The only alternative to war was Social revolution. The Socialists wished to prevent war, so as to be al-

Editor. (May 22, 1905). THE PASSPORT CASE, PROSECUTION AT BOW-STREET, SIR E. CARSON'S STATEMENT (Sir Edward Carson re. British passports for Russian bombers). The Globe.

TRANSCRIPT

THE PASSPORT CASE.

PROSECUTION AT BOW-STREET.

SIR E. CARSON'S STATEMENT.

At Bow-street to-day Mr. Henry Noel Brailsford, of Well Walk, Hampstead, and Mr. Arthur Henry Muir M'Culloch, of Bolton-terrace, Lovaine-crescent, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Berwick-street, Manchester, appeared before Sir Albert De Rutzen on summonses charging them with unlawfully conspiring with other persons unknown to obtain a passport by falsely stating that it was to be used by one of them for the purpose of travelling in Russia, whereas it was intended to be falsely and fraudulently used by some other person, thus endangering the peaceful relations existing between the English and Russian nations.

The Solicitor-General (Sir Edward Carson), Mr. Bodkin, and Mr. Sutton supported the summons on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. J. A. Simon appeared for the defendants. The Earl of Desart, the Director of Public Prosecutions, occupied a seat on the Bench, near counsel's box. Superintendent Quinn and Detective-Inspector M'Carthy, of Scotland Yard, represented the police.

CASE FOR THE CROWN.

The Solicitor-General, in opening the case, said he was directed by the Attorney-General to appear on behalf of the prosecution. Mr. Brailsford was a journalist, and Mr. M'Culloch was an actor. They were charged with having conspired together to obtain a passport to Russia by means of a false declaration. It was to enable them, or either one of them, to supply the document to some one who would thus be able to travel in Russia as a British subject, and to claim, under the passport, all the privileges and amenities always granted to a subject of King Edward. The charge was brought under the common law, it being considered that obtaining a passport in this way, and for a fraudulent purpose, was calculated to cause great public mischief. So far as he knew, the facts of the case were not disputed. In the month of October, 1904, Mr. Brailsford was anxious to obtain from the Foreign Office passports to afford opportunities to certain persons to travel in Russia for the purpose of spreading in the Czar's dominions literature of a certain character. He, therefore, asked Mr. M'Culloch if he would sign the necessary declaration, so that he might obtain a passport in his name. Mr. M'Culloch must have known that the passport was not for himself, as he had no intention of travelling in Russia.

PROCEDURE FOR A PASSPORT.

In the second place, he must have known that the object of Mr. Brailsford was to hand the passport over to some other person, who would represent himself to be M'Culloch, and thus obtain the protection afforded to a British subject. According to the regulations of the Foreign Office, persons applying for a passport must sign a declaration, and obtain some person—a banker, magistrate, barrister, physician, surgeon, or notary—to verify that declaration. Mr. Brailsford, therefore, induced Mr. Bertram Christian, a member of the Bar, to verify the declaration made by Mr. M'Culloch. The document, so signed by Mr. M'Culloch, was taken to the Foreign Office on the 28th of October. The Solicitor-General read the form of the declaration which applicants for passports had to sign, and said he had no doubt that when Mr. Christian signed the document he acted in perfectly good faith. It was not suggested for a moment that Mr. Christian knew for what purpose the passport was to be used. It would be seen from the regulations he had just read that every precaution was taken to prevent anyone but respectable British subjects being granted passports as British subjects. The act of the defendants was a deliberate one, and they must have known at the time that they were deceiving the Foreign Office and deceiving the Minister of State who was doing his duty towards the King. They were also deceiving the Russian Government, who had international arrangements with England for the mutual advantage of the citizens of

both countries.

THE SIGNATURE.

The passport was eventually granted in the name of M'Culloch. There could be no doubt that the passport in question went into the hands of Mr. Brailsford. So far as was known, it never went into the possession of Mr. M'Culloch. Mr. Brailsford's object in applying for it to Mr. M'Culloch was to enable him to get a passport to be used for someone else. The passport was taken to the Russian Consulate in London, and the vise [visa] of the Consulate was affixed to it on the 14th of November. At the bottom of the passport appeared the alleged signature of Mr. M'Culloch, but, so far as could be ascertained, that was not Mr. M'Culloch's signature. One of the regulations on the passport was that as soon as possible after the receipt of the document the holder should write his signature upon it. He could not say who attached the signature to this passport, but it was clearly signed by the person who intended to use it, the reason being that while travelling in Russia the holder might be asked to sign his name at any time. His signature would, of course, be compared with that on the passport, and any difference would be noticed. The passport was handed by Mr. Brailsford to some other person, and nothing more was heard of it until February 25th of this year.

THE HOTEL BRISTOL EXPLOSION.

On that date there was an explosion of a bomb, or an infernal machine of some kind, at the Hotel Bristol, St. Petersburg. In that explosion a man who was staying at the hotel was apparently in the possession of the instrument causing the explosion. He was found to have been living at the hotel in the name of M'Culloch. He was passing as a British subject, although he was a Russian. The Russian police found among the remains of this man, who was killed by the force of the explosion, a passport which had been issued on October 28 in the previous year to Mr. M'Culloch. He would be very sorry, indeed, to suggest that either of the defendants, being Englishmen, passed the document on to this man, whoever he was, but they passed it on to some person other than the one to whom it was granted. Although he could not say because there was no evidence—that the passport was handed over to this man, yet if an abuse of this kind was tolerated it must, of course, be because of a very grave danger. It appeared that the man in the possession of the passport arrived at the Hotel Bristol on January 25th last, just a month before the explosion occurred. On his arrival he gave his passport to the hotel proprietor for the purpose of having it placed with the police authorities. He gave the name of Arthur Henry Muir M'Culloch, a British subject 37 years of age, and represented that he was in Russia on private business. After the explosion there were communications between the Russian and English Governments, and the Foreign Office made enquiries as to how it was a Russian subject was allowed to use a passport issued to a British subject.

MR. BEAILBORD'S ADMISSIONS.

Mr. Brailsford evidently became aware that inquiries were being made, for on March 17 he sent the following letter to Detective-Inspector M'Carthy, of Scotland Yard:—"Dear sir,—I hear you are investigating the affair of the M'Culloch, Halley, and Malloch passports. They were all obtained by me, and these three gentlemen had no knowledge whatever of what subsequently became of them, or of the use for which they were destined. Should you require further information as to my share in the matter it is at your disposal." Detective-Inspector M'Carthy called upon Mr. Brailsford, and the latter told him he was asked by a person who was on the Continent at one of the European centres, and who was connected with the Russian revolutionary movement, to obtain some passports. He agreed to do so, after receiving a definite promise that they should only be used for peaceful propaganda purposes. He understood that to mean the introduction of certain literature into Russia. He (the Solicitor-General) ventured to suggest that a more dangerous method of assisting the revolutionary movement in a friendly foreign country could not be conceived. He accepted entirely Mr. Brailsford's statement that it was only his intention that certain literature should be introduced into Russia, but, of course, when the passport went out of his hands it was impossible for him to control the improper use which was certainly made of it. Mr. M'Culloch was also seen, and his case (which was, no doubt, true) was that in signing the document he was acting on the request of Mr. Brailsford with a view to enabling him to pass it on to a third person.

DISCREDITABLE BUT CRIMINAL.

What had been done in this case was calculated to cause the greatest possible public mischief. It might, in certain circumstances, seriously involve the relations between the two countries, and it might cause the arrangements as to passports to be modified as between the two countries. As regarded our own commercial interests, it must be at once apparent to anyone that people who had legitimate business in Russia—particularly at a time when Russia was engaged in foreign conflict, and had great domestic troubles—might be suspected of bad faith if it were found that passports were being trafficked in in this way. It was, therefore, looked upon as a very grave matter, and it had been thought proper to bring it before the Court, and to ask the magistrate to commit the defendants for trial. The prosecution thought it ought to be brought home to the public that to engage in traffic of this kind was not only discreditable, but was a criminal matter. Evidence was then called in support of this statement.

THE EVIDENCE.

Mr. Bertram Christian, of Temple-gardens, stated that he signed the passports on the representation of Mr. Brailsford that the parties named were friends of his, and that there was no need for witness to have personal knowledge of them.-
-Cross-examined: Mr. Brailsford was a man of the highest character, and would not, in witness's opinion, deliberately assist in terrorism. Mr. H. S. Martin, a clerk in charge of the Passport Department in Downing-street, gave evidence as to the issue of the passports in question.

Other formal evidence having been given, the manager of the Hotel Bristol in St. Petersburg was called. Mr. Simon objected to his evidence, and after some argument Sir Albert De Butzen decided to allow it.

The manager then explained, through an interpreter, the nature of the explosion, and produced the passport in the name of M'Culloch, found on the deceased man. According to the vises on the passport, the holder appeared to have visited with it many large towns besides St. Petersburg.

Other evidence having been given, the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

TOGO'S SIGNAL

"DESTINY OF OUR EMPIRE DEPENDS UPON THIS ACTION."

ADMIRAL KILLED BY FIRST SHOT.

JAPANESE OFFICERS' DESCRIPTION OF BATTLE.

Message to his men on the opening of the Battle of the Sea of Japan, as he calls it...

Seven thousand Russians, it is estimated, and upwards of 4,000 are prisoners in Japan.

A Japanese officer's description of the battle will be read with great interest.

The Russian losses in the great naval battle were very seriously estimated at seven to nine thousand.

The total Japanese victory in the battle of the Sea of Japan was under eight hundred.

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ALFONSO'S ESCAPE

CAREFULLY PREPARED OUTRAGE.

SEVERAL ARRESTS.

DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER BOMB.

Paris, Thursday. According to the latest reports received from the Prefect of Police...

The bomb burst some twenty yards behind the carriage in which the King and the Princess were seated.

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WITH FATHER GAGAN.

HIS STORY OF THE MASSACRE.

SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS.

WHAT THEY ARE REALLY LIKE.

"What struck me most of all during those historic days," said Father Gagan to me...

The brilliant dark eyes of Father Gagan grew dim, and an expression of sadness passed across his face.

I especially remember two women who protected me in walking before me, in order to protect me from the bullets with their own bodies.

"Where were they killed?" I inquired.

"I acted in a foolish way. People say that but I was not warned."

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

"I was not warned?"

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PIGMIES ARRIVE

THE KING TO SEE THEM.

WHAT THEY ARE REALLY LIKE.

THE HOUSE AND THE MOTOR.

ALLEGED BREACH OF FAITH.

DEMAND FOR SHARPER PUNISHMENTS.

INQUIRY NEXT SESSION.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday Night.

At rare intervals the House emerges from its wont of minor routine and engages on a subject of genuine human interest.

It was on this afternoon, when Mr. Calvert Wason brought up the case of the Motor-car Act of two years ago and fastened on a question to reduce Mr. Gerald Balfour's salary by £100 (fully, however, moved by Mr. Balfour).

"There is no subject which more keenly divides the House than that of motor-cars," Mr. Wason who had an Australian experience, spoke.

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PICTURES IN PARLIAMENT.

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BOYCOTT OF A THEATRICAL CRITIC.

22 MANAGERS ARRESTED.

NEW YORK, Thursday.

As a result of the magistrate's decision that theatres are not private property, Mr. Conrad, manager of the Metropolitan Opera...

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

"THE CABINET MINISTER."

Fifteen years ago Mr. Pinero's force was a great success... The play was enthusiastically received.

MELBA AS MARGARET.

Melba does not suggest a Margaret who truly loved her prayer book and her brother... The play was enthusiastically received.

THE CAPTURE OF A BRITISH STEAMER.

NAGASAKI, May 31.

The fate of the merchant ship "The British Eagle" which was captured by a Russian submarine, is at present uncertain...

JULIET'S HOUSE TO BE SOLD.

ROME, Thursday Afternoon.

The Tribunal at Verona today gave the necessary authorisation for the sale by auction of the well-known Juliet Capulet mansion...

Dr. David Soskice. (Jun. 02, 1905). WITH FATHER GAPON, HIST STORY OF THE MASSACRE, SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS. The (London) Daily News.

TRANSCRIPT

WITH FATHER CAPON.

HIS STORY OF THE MASSACRE.

SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS.

Dr. David Soskice Writes, in. the London "Daily News"?'of June 2nd [1905 - Bloody Sunday]:

"What struck me most of all during those historic days," said Father Gapon to me, "was the behavior of the women. The courage they displayed while under the fire of the soldiers, and their splendid solidarity with the men, was really astonishing. It was not in tens or hundreds that they joined the movement and signed the petition to the Czar, but in thousands, tens of thousands, en masse-almost without exception! Nothing was more touching, than their faith in the righteousness of our cause."

The brilliant dark eyes of Father Gapon grew dim, and an expression of sadness passed across his face. He was silent for awhile; and the twilight gradually deepened in the room in which we were sitting.

"I especially remember two women who persisted in walking before me, in order to protect me from the bullets with their own bodies. I tried in vain to dissuade them, and at last I was obliged to ask some of the men to lead them away by force. I don't think they are living now.. . ."

"Were there many killed?" I inquired.

"The best were killed. . ."

His pale face had grown paler still, and deep lines of suffering had spread across his high forehead when he spoke again.

"They acted. In a fiendish way. People say that bugles gave the warning in other places . . . but we were not warned .. they shot us down like dogs! Poor women-and children! The volleys followed each other without interruption--as if from machine guns. When the shooting began, my dear friend, Vassily, the chairman of our society, shouted to the people--'Lie down!'--and he himself fell. I also cried to them to lie down, and we all threw ourselves down upon the snow. When the firing ceased I stood up, and with a few others here and there, but the great masses of the first rows lay prostrate. I cried to them 'Stand up!' but they lay still. . . I could not understand. . . Why do they lie thee?. . . I looked, and saw that their arms were stretched lifelessly . . . and blood on the snow! Then I understood. . . it was horrible. . . And my Vassily lay dead at my feet.

I felt horror creeping into my heart.

"It is wonderful that you escaped un hurt!" I ejaculated.

"It was a miracle. Indeed it was a miracle! That night before we had all sworn that we would reach the Czar or die! We knew that they would shoot at us, but we did not think of such wanton slaughter, and we had faith in our numbers and in our determination. We believed that if our blood was spilt it would prepare the ground for the triumph of our cause. When I stood up and saw those behind the rows of the dead--the procession stretched almost endlessly, it seemed, into the distance-I ordered the people to gather round me and to march forward. They wavered for awhile, some fled, but the mass went onward with me to find the Czar. Again we were stopped, and slashed at with-swords and fired upon by

the endless volleys. But nothing could break our determination until after the last volley, when I again stood up, unhurt, and found only two or three workmen able to rise with me. They pushed me into a by-street, and tore off my cassock; one of them drew scissors from his pocket and quickly cropped my hair; another, a poor ragged fellow, put his coat on me and his cap, and I was taken to the house of a friend who immediately shaved off my beard, and after that I went to G---. He is a good--a really noble man . . "

"I should have gone mad living through all that!" I remarked.

"Many have said that to me . . ."

We discussed the situation in Ruasla for many hours, and the prospect of the cause. For obvious reasons I cannot enter into the details of our conversation. I will only mention that Fatheer Gapon is as determined as ever to lead the people of Russia to their attack upon Czardom. But he does not believe that the eleventh hour has come.

"I am pessimistic," he told me. "I do not believe in the possibility of an immediate general Insurrection. Before our cause can triumph much--very much blood will yet be spilt, and many lives sacrificed. But one thing is certain : that the upheaval cannot be smothered over by any power in the world. It will grow and spread till it swallows the worn-out regmine. And we must work for it!

Editor. (Mar. 13, 1906). FATHER GAPON'S BROTHER DROWNED, WASHED INTO THE SEA AT HASTINGS.
Derby Daily Telegraph.

TRANSCRIPT

FATHER GAPON'S BROTHER DROWNED.

WASHED INTO THE SEA AT HASTINGS.

The foreigner washed from groyne at Hastings on Sunday evening and drowned is stated by the Eastbourne police Serge Gapon, the Russian, who claimed a brother Father Gapon. A week ago- the man was charged Eastbourne with being drunk and disorderly, and was recommended to be expelled under the Aliens Act. He was removed to Lewes Prison, but was released Sunday. The man returned to Eastbourne, and intimated that was going to Folkestone or Dover see the Russian Consul. At Hastings he was seen holding to the railings defying the waves. Gapon then walked down the steps, and wave came and washed him away. Gallant efforts were made to rescue the man, but when the body was recovered life was extinct.

NATAL CRISIS. VETO ON THE EXECUTIONS WITHDRAWN. OFFICIAL DISPATCHES. GOVERNOR CENSURED.

Before the House of Lords, yesterday, Earl Cawdor asked the Government to disclose any information which might be of use to the Home Office...

SIR H. McCALLUM EXPLAINS. The Governor stated that on 15th March, at a meeting of Ministers, he suggested to them that in the case of prisoners being tried by court martial at Richmond, as that regards the part of the indictment...

CAPE TOWN, March 30. According to the "Cape Times," the action of Natal will be endorsed practically unreservedly by the Cape Government...

NO JURISDICTION. The "Friend," discussing the Natal crisis, says that the Government are not to be taken for granted...

EVIDENCE CONCLUSIVE. Evidence was conclusive against condemned man. I went most carefully into it, and prepared myself to give evidence against each individual prisoner...

LORD EGIN'S DECISION. His Majesty's Government have sent a reply to that telegram, and have sent a copy of it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies...

THE POSITIONED EXECUTION. RICHMOND, March 30. In accordance with orders originally given, a large number of natives gathered here today to witness the execution of the murderers of the late Governor of Natal...

AMERICAN COAL WAR. OVER 400,000 MEN TO STRIKE. APPEAL TO MR. ROOSEVELT.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 30. The anthracite miners' wage-scale committee have endorsed the total suspension of mining in the anthracite districts on April 2nd, and have telegraphed to the operators that they will meet them in New York on April 2nd for further consideration...

GREENSBURG (PENN.), March 30. In regard to the action of the Indianapolis Convention in suspending work in the anthracite mines, the operators have adopted a resolution...

NEW YORK, March 30. The coalowners demand a grant that will be necessary to raise the price by \$5 a ton. Both sides are very determined, and the miners are firm in their intention not to allow Mr. Roosevelt to interfere, as he did in 1902...

WASHINGTON, March 30. Mr. Winder, Chairman of the Bituminous Operators' Association, has telegraphed to Mr. Roosevelt, requesting him to appoint a Commission to investigate the matter...

REDUCED PENSIONS ADVISED. With reference to the actuarial deficit recently reported in the Midland Railway superannuation fund, amounting to £481,000, the following extract from the actuaries' report will be of interest...

NORTHERN NIGERIA. His Majesty's Government have sent a reply to that telegram, and have sent a copy of it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies...

EXPEDITION STOPPED BY COLONIAL OFFICE. The expedition which was despatched by the High Commissioner against the Mushi, who in January last rose on the midland of the Niger, has been stopped by the Colonial Office...

OFFICIAL STATEMENT. With reference to the above report, the Government are in official quarters that the expedition which was despatched by the High Commissioner against the Mushi, who in January last rose on the midland of the Niger, has been stopped by the Colonial Office...

FRENCH MINERS. THIRTEEN RESCUED ALIVE AFTER TWENTY DAYS ENTOMBMENT. LEADERS' THRILLING STORY.

LENS, Friday. This morning the villages round this town were startled by the report that thirteen of the Courrières miners who had been entombed had been rescued alive. There was a wild rush for No. 2 of motives and wires mad with excitement...

WASHINGTON, March 30. The little band numbered twenty at first, and when the rescue was complete, only thirteen were left. The others had died of starvation and exposure...

WASHINGTON, March 30. Mr. Winder, Chairman of the Bituminous Operators' Association, has telegraphed to Mr. Roosevelt, requesting him to appoint a Commission to investigate the matter...

WASHINGTON, March 30. The House of Representatives has passed a bill to provide for the relief of the miners who were entombed in the Courrières mine...

THE ACTUARIES' REPORT ON THE MIDLAND FUND. Further particulars are now to hand regarding the circumstances under which the report was prepared, and the results of the investigation...

BRITISH CONSUL ATTACKED BEATEN WITH STICKS BY PERSIAI MOR. ST. PETERSBURG, March 30. The following telegram has been received from the Persian Legation...

HAGUE CONFERENCE. IN THE SUMMER OR AUTUMN. WASHINGTON, March 30. The Secretary of State has announced that the Government of the United States has agreed to send a representative to the Hague Conference...

THE TABA INCIDENT. CONSTANTINOPLE, March 29. The report that the Taba incident had occurred in the Turkish Empire has been confirmed by the Turkish Government...

PARLIAMENT. DEMOCRACY'S VICTORY. HACKLETON BILL CARRIED. AN ENORMOUS MAJORITY.

WESTMINSTER, Friday Night. Parliamentary Democracy won a great triumph in the afternoon. The victory might have been thought a foregone conclusion...

WESTMINSTER, Friday Night. The House of Commons passed the Hackleton Bill by a majority of 350. The Bill was introduced by Mr. Hackleton, and was supported by a large number of members...

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WHO WAS "MARIE DERRAL"? SENSATIONAL TURN OF HOTEL MYSTERY. IS MRS. CUSHING ALIVE?

Sensational fiction is completely put in the shade by the extraordinary state of affairs disclosed yesterday in connection with the case of the woman who was known as Marie Derral...

At the adjourned inquest, Mrs. Gertrude Wood, wife of an American speaker, declared that the dead woman was her sister, Mrs. Laura A. Cushing, who had been in London for some time...

Imagine my dismay this morning when I saw in the Herald that I had been the subject of a sensational report. I had been told that I was the woman who had been in London for some time...

Now, the reasons for my belief are several. I have known Mrs. Cushing for many years, and I have never seen her in London since she was in London for some time...

Further particulars are now to hand regarding the circumstances under which the report was prepared, and the results of the investigation...

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PICTURES IN PARLIAMENT. DEMOCRACY'S VICTORY. HACKLETON BILL CARRIED. AN ENORMOUS MAJORITY.

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Editor. (Mar. 31, 1906). WHO WAS "MARIE DERVAL"? (The death of revolutionary Helene de Krebel).
The London Daily News.

TRANSCRIPT

WHO WAS MARIE DERVAL”?

SENSATIONAL TURN HOTEL MYSTERY.

IS MRS. CUSHING ALIVE?

Sensational fiction is completely put in the shade the extraordinary state of affairs disclosed yesterday in connection with what has come to known the Pimlico hotel mystery. On March 11 [1906] a lady engaged rooms at Liffen’s Hotel, Gillingham street, Pimlico, and on March 14 she was found dead in bed the result of poisoning by corrosive sublimate. A letter left behind pointed to suicide. Every care had been taken by deceased to destroy her identity. She even went so far to say that the name signed the foot of the letter which she left. “Marie Derval,” was assumed. She was buried at Woking as “a woman unknown.’

At the adjourned inquest Mrs. Gertrude Wood, wife of an American speculator, declared that the dead woman was her sister, Mrs. Laura A. Cushing, wife of Boston millionaire. She admitted that she had not seen her sister for some months, and that on the last occasion when she passed her in Oxford-street they had not spoken. Still, she was convinced of the dead woman's identity - she recognised the handwriting as that of her sister, and a penknife and purse as being her property. She also referred to a peculiar family malformation of the third finger the deceased's left hand, trace of which she said was discernible in the gloves found in the bed room at the hotel.

The Coroner, however, was by no means satisfied that the deceased’s identity had been established. The mystery deepened yesterday, when the following letter written the real Mrs. Laura A. Cushing appeared in the columns of Paris edition of the “New York Herald”:

Imagine my dismay this morning when I saw in the “Herald” that had been the subject of a coroner’s inquest in London.

As our beloved Mark Twain once remarked under similar circumstances, the story is slightly exaggerated.”

At present I am seriously thinking of insuring my life against the perils of cars and automobiles in the Paris streets, but really no accident has claimed me yet.

I wish to add that I have not been in England since last August.—Yours sincerely, (Signed) LAURA A. CUSHING.

P.S.—London papers, please note.

If the letter was written the real Mrs. Cushing, then Mrs. Wood has made a mistake. Who, then, can the dead woman be? Mrs. Wood, on the other hand, insists that she is right. She called yesterday at the office of the “Star” and gave her reasons.

SISTER’S DOUBTS.

“I doubt very much whether the writer of that letter in the ‘Herald’ is my sister,” said Mrs. Wood. “I am convinced, in fact, that sister is the one who committed suicide at that hotel. Unless I actually hear her voice and see her face I shall remain of the same belief.

“I hate inquired to-day at the American Shipping Exchange, at another exchange in London where my letters or hers would be received, and nothing has come from Paris for me, which is very strange if my sister is really alive.

“Now, the reasons for my belief are several. I recognize the letter left at the hotel by ‘Marie Derval’ as in her handwriting.’ Many of the words were underlined, a constant habit of hers, and they were in what I should call a peculiar kind of scribble, and not ordinary handwriting at all.

Then there was the silver penknife, the outside of which was chased. It was a knife that I had seen myself in my sister’s possession. The gloves were just the same as my sister would be wearing. They showed traces of that family trait in the finger which those who know us would regard as very important, that the third finger of the left hand has at its upper joint a slight inclination towards the middle finger. Her other fingers are perfectly straight.

An ordinary observer would not notice this at all, but immediately picked up the tan glove left at the hotel, and held it loose, I recognized in its shape the trace of the peculiar slant which its wearer’s third finger on the left hand possessed. It was exactly such a shape as I should expect the glove to show.

When I tried it on, although sister had a small band, it required no forcing, as it would have done had it not been worn someone having same peculiarity of the finger as myself. Another thing which was the subject of discussion at the inquest was the physique of the dead woman. The hotel keeper and the doctor who was called in when she was discovered dead described her as being thin.

“I said if she was a thin woman she was not my sister, but, as a fact, the post-mortem photograph of the woman showed that she was plump. The doctor who made the autopsy has since told me that the body was not that of a thin woman.”

A HOUSE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

With regard to the packing of the dead woman’s bag, Mrs. Wood saw a resemblance to her sister’s methods in this queer way. The arrangement of the things was nothing, they were all in pell-mell, but they were all in themselves neat.

“Had you had any dispute with your sister?” she was asked.

“Not what you would really call a quarrel. We were not enemies, but still she did not confide in me.”

“Where is Mr. John P. Cushing now?”

“I do not know, except that he has a house in the South of France.”

In the course of the day a representative of “The Daily News” interviewed Mr. Liffen. The proprietor of the hotel where the death of the mysterious lady took place, and was shown some of the articles she had left in her room. The gloves were tan, of an unknown make, size 6 ½. A long and careful scrutiny, however, failed to bear out the assertion of Mrs. Wood that the left-hand glove proved the malformation of the third finger of the dead lady’s hand. As a matter of fact, the most careful examination showed the articles to be perfectly natural in its size and shape. This was pointed out to Mr. Liffen by our representative, and he thoroughly agreed.

“Furthermore,” said Mr. Liffen, “I do not understand what Mrs. Wood means by the glove exactly fitting her when she tried it on. To my certain knowledge Mrs. Wood never did this. It is not accurate either for her to say she recognized the knife and purse. How could she? The knife is a comparatively new one, as you will see, and as Mrs. Wood has not seen her sister for months, it is not likely that she had an opportunity of seeing it. What she really did say to me was, ‘These are just the things my sister would have.’ Then, again, it is no use Mrs. Wood saying that she recognised her sister’s method in the packing of her bag, because, as a matter of fact, I packed the bag myself.”

The knife shown to our representative was an ordinary silver-handled lady’s penknife, in a chamois leather case. There were three blades, including a manicure blade, each of which was stamped “Empire Co., warranted c.t.” It was

undoubtedly of American manufacture.”

“ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN”

Mr. Edward H. Allen, the solicitor to Mrs. Gertrude Wood, was next seen by our representative, and invited to shed what light he could upon the anomalous state of affairs.

“All I can say,” he answered, is that Mr. Wood, to my knowledge is in her own mind absolutely certain that the dead woman is her sister. Frankly, I am not. I am of the opinion ... there is a mistake somewhere, just where I cannot for the moment find out. A letter alleged to be signed by Mrs. Laura A. Cushing has appeared in the “New York Herald,” but in my opinion it is a hoax. However, I shall find that out, too. I have been in telegraphic communications with all the principal cities of the Continent throughout the whole of the day, but have elicited nothing so far. If Mrs. Laura A. Cushing is on the face of the earth I will scour it until I find her. If she is alive I will produce her at the adjourned inquest, if she is dead then it is she who was buried at Woking.”

Late last night our representative was assured by telephone from Paris that the letter which had appeared in the “Herald” was perfectly genuine. Mrs. Laura A. Cushing had undoubtedly been in Paris, and had appeared at the office of the paper. An extraordinary feature of the case, however lays in the fact that during the evening Mrs. Cushing disappeared, and all trace of her in PARIS HAS BEEN LOST. Thus the mystery becomes deeper than ever.

BRITISH HISTORY ONLINE

Percy Circus area

Pages 217-238

Survey of London: Volume 47, Northern Clerkenwell and Pentonville (/survey-london/vol47). Originally published by London County Council, London, 2008.

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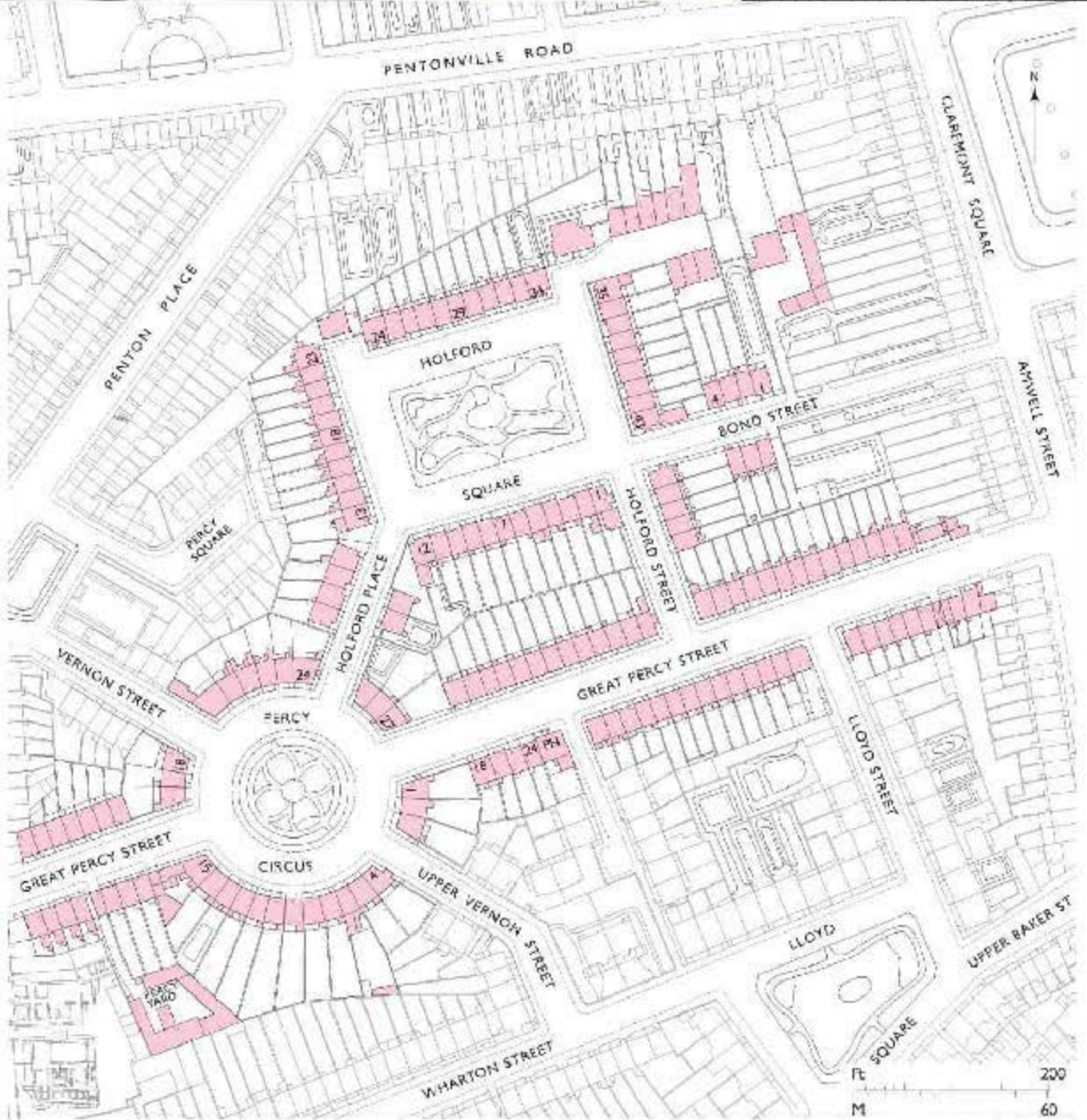
Keyword highlight

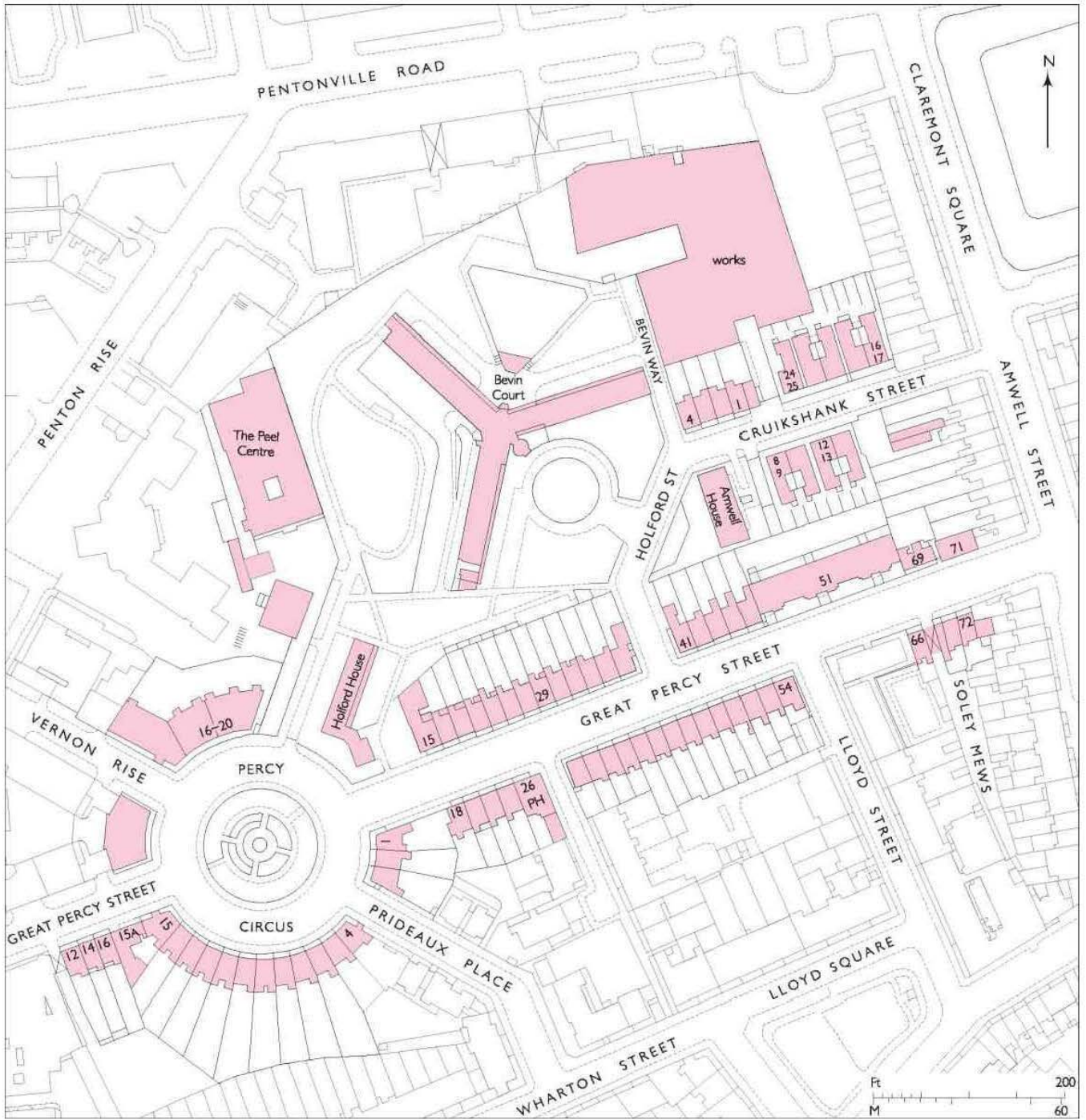
Find on this page.

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- [CHAPTER IX, Percy Circus Area](#)
 - [Myddelton Gardens and the London Gymnastic Institute](#)
- [Great Percy Street](#)
 - [No. 69, Amwell Cottage](#)
 - [Nos 55–67 \(demolished\) and Sanders House](#)
 - [Nos 28–72](#)
 - [No. 26, Percy Arms](#)
 - [Other houses](#)
- [Percy Circus](#)
- [Cruikshank Street](#)
- [Holford Square](#)
 - [Lenin and the Lenin memorials](#)
 - [Peel Centre](#)
 - [Bevin Court, Holford House and Amwell House](#)

Footnotes







290. Great Percy Street, lower section, looking east to Percy **Circus** in 1906. Left, Nos 1–13, built 1844–53 (*demolished*); right, flank of Clerkenwell Police Court, King's Cross Road



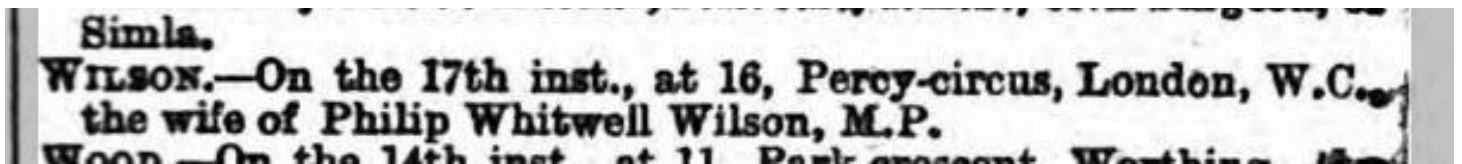
292. Nos 16–18 Percy Circus in 1965. Nos 7–13 Great Percy Street to left. *All demolished*



296. Nos 16–20 Percy Circus (left to right) in 2005. Try Homes, developers, 1999–2000

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol47/pp217-238>

Percy Circus



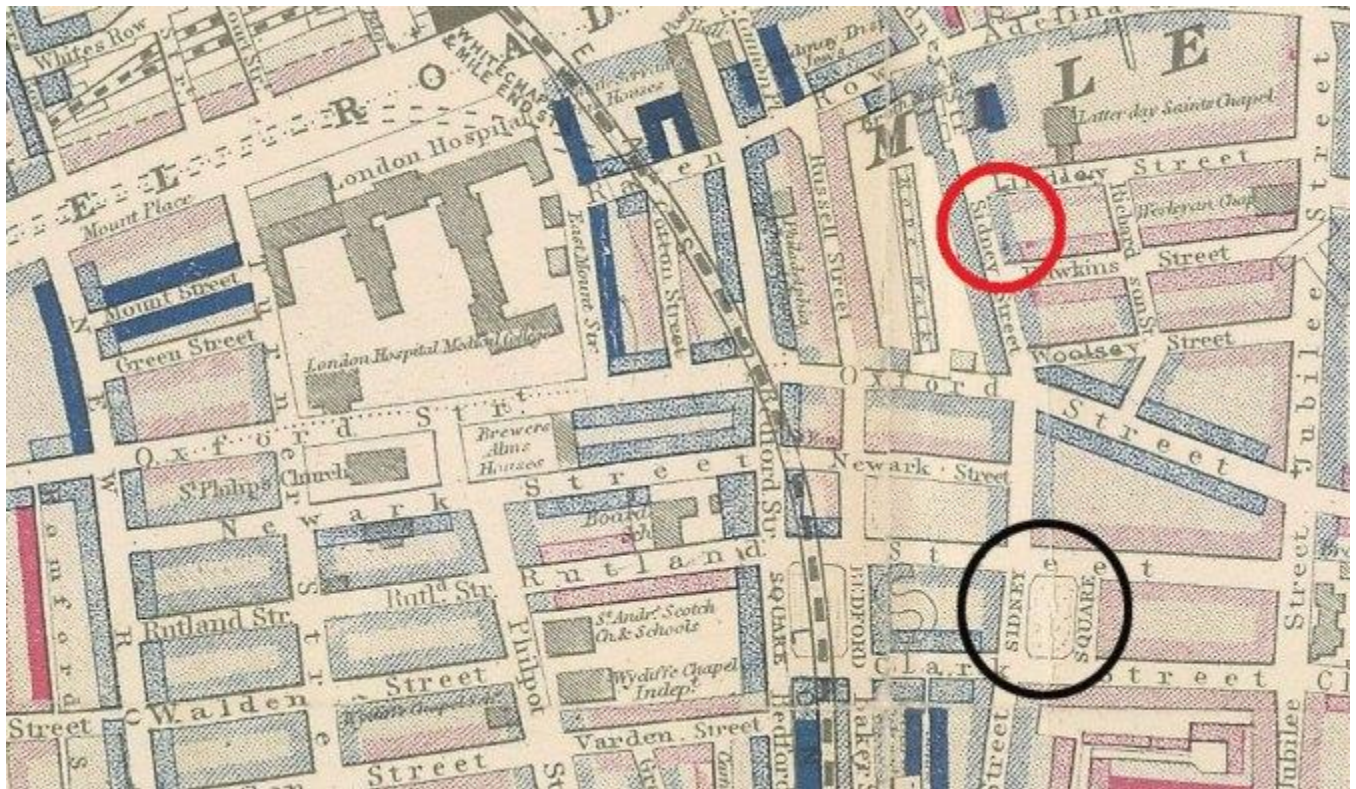
16 Percy Circus Philip Whitwell Wilson MP Globe 19 October 1906

Philip Whitwell Wilson, MP. (Oct. 19, 1906). On the 17th inst., at 16, Percy-circus, London, W.C., the wife of Philip Whitwell Wilson, M.P. *The Globe*.

SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATION. — The Kirkcaldy branch of the Social Democratic Federation held a Socialist demonstration in the King's Theatre on Sunday evening. There was a large attendance. The principal speaker was Mr Harry Quelch, the great Socialist leader, who took as his subject "War and the Social Revolution." Referring to the naval crisis between Great Britain and Germany, Mr Quelch said should war break out between this country and Germany it would in all probability end in a European conflict. The Germans say that if they wished to command a large share in the world's trade they must have a strong navy, and they were prepared, he had no doubt, to go to war with Britain to attain that end. They believed that war would not only be mischievous and ruinous in many respects, but also injurious to the common people, and it would do more than anything else to put back the social development and social changes, which they called the Social Revolution. Mr John M'Lean, M.A., Glasgow, also addressed the meeting, and stated that the country had to thank the Socialist party for making known to the people the imminent dangers that existed in this naval crisis at the present time. During the evening solos were sung, while Socialist selections were given by the orchestra. Mr Quelch also addressed a large gathering in the Gaiety Theatre, Methil, on Sunday afternoon.

Quelch War and Social Revolution, Fife Free Press, & Kirkcaldy Guardian 01 May 1909. [A higher quality version follows.](#)

Harry Quelch. (May 01, 1909). SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATION, Kirkcaldy branch of the Social Democratic Federation. *The Fife Free Press & Kirkcaldy Guardian*.



Deering Sydney Square

2561 Hemmin, Henry James	13 Percy circus	dwelling house	13 Percy circus
2562 Young, Robert	14 Percy circus	dwelling house	14 Percy circus
2563 McCann, Michael	15 Percy circus	dwelling house	15 Percy circus
2564 Wilson, Philip Whitwell	16 Percy circus	dwelling house	16 Percy circus
2565 Kemp, Jonathan	20 Percy circus	dwelling house	20 Percy circus
2566 Selby, Walter Thomas	22 Percy circus	dwelling house	22 Percy circus
2567 Harris, John	25 Percy circus	dwelling house	25 Percy circus
2568 Worsley, James	26 Percy circus	dwelling house	26 Percy circus
2569 Roker, Alfred	27 Percy circus	dwelling house	27 Percy circus

Philip Whitwell Wilson Electoral Roll 1905. [Higher quality version of this record follows \(also see 1904, 1906, 1907\)](#)

Philip Whitwell Wilson. (1905). Electoral register No. 2564, 16 Percy circus, Parliamentary Borough, London Central, SPR.Mic.P.316/BL.F.1/4, Image No. 96, England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1832-1932. The British Library.

FATHER GAPON.

MURDERED BY A JEALOUS
COMRADE.

A JEWESS THE CAUSE.

THE MURDERER NOW IN HIDING
IN LONDON.

We have received from a source in which we place the utmost reliance an extraordinary account of the death of Father Gapon, the Russian revolutionary leader who was found dead in a villa near St. Petersburg some months ago.

According to the accounts then published, Father Gapon was lured to the Villa by agents of the revolutionary party, and hanged because he was suspected of having betrayed the secrets of the organization.

ported to have rejoined the Jews in Berlin a fortnight later. On April 26 M. Margoline, a St. Petersburg solicitor, received a letter from Berlin in a woman's handwriting, evidently disguised.

Accompanying the letter were £130, Father Gapon's pocket book, and a key to the priest's safe in the vaults of the Credit Lyonnaise in St. Petersburg.

The priest's pocket-book contained several unimportant papers, including receipts signed on April 9—the last day on which he was seen alive in St. Petersburg. It is believed that "Martin" took all of Father Gapon's personal effects with him, and afterwards returned them from Berlin, in order to show that robbery was not the motive for the murder.

"Martin" wandered about the Continent for several weeks, and then came to London, where he is now said to be living under an assumed name.

The Russian Government is especially anxious to punish "Martin," in order to show that Father Gapon's murder was not instigated "officially."

GIRL'S TRAGIC DEATH.

A report on the death of Gapon featuring a mysterious unnamed woman - Birmingham Daily Gazette 11 August 1906 (See final pages of this document for a higher quality reproduction of this article.)

Editor. (Aug. 11, 1906). FATHER GAPON, MURDERED BY A JEALOUS COMRADE, p.5, cols. 2-3. Birmingham Gazette and Express.

said there was a terrific light, but no one was shot as far as they had heard.

PASSPORT CONSPIRACY.

Englishman Named McCulloch, an Actor, Charged With Obtaining One to Give to Revolutionist.

LONDON, May 22 — An Englishman named McCulloch, who is understood to be an actor, and who procured the passport found on the body of the bomb manufacturer killed by an explosion of one of his bombs in the hotel Bristol, St Petersburg, on March 11, will be among those arraigned at Bow-st police court tomorrow on the charge of conspiring to obtain passports for unlawful purposes.

The officials here decline to furnish the names of those implicated, but it is said that another of the defendants is a well-known writer on political subjects, and that the trial will disclose the details of a regular system by which foreign sympathizers with the liberal movement in Russia furnished political propagandists with passports in the names of subjects of other powers, thereby enabling the propagandists to enter Russia.

A man who was blown to pieces while examining a bomb in a St Petersburg hotel, some months ago, had a passport bearing the name of Arthur Henry McCulloch, but he had not spoken English customarily, as the Russian secret police learned after the explosion.

Caught.

Miss Passay (cooly)—I saw the cutest painting today of the—er—what is the

The arrest of Henry Noel Brailsford and McCulloch over fraudulent Russian passports – Hotel Bristol Brailsford, Daily Globe 22 May 1905. [A high quality version follows.](#)

Editor. (May 22, 1905). THE PASSPORT CASE, PROSECUTION AT BOW-STREET, SIR E. CARSON'S STATEMENT (Sir Edward Carson re. British passports for Russian bombers). *The Globe*.



The Liffen Hotel where Helene de Krebele was found dead



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"P. W. W."

(Mr. Philip Whitwell Wilson)

Philip Whitwell Wilson, National Portrait Gallery

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp55392/philip-whitwell-wilson?search=sas&sText=philip+whitwell+wilson>

FATHER GAPON'S BROTHER DROWNED.

WASHED INTO THE SEA AT HASTINGS.

The foreigner washed from a groyne at Hastings on Sunday evening and drowned is stated by the Eastbourne police to be Serge Gapon, the Russian, who claimed to be a brother of Father Gapon. A week ago the man was charged at Eastbourne with being drunk and disorderly, and was recommended to be expelled under the Aliens Act. He was removed to Lewes Prison, but was released on Sunday. The man returned to Eastbourne, and intimated that he was going to Folkestone or Dover to see the Russian Consul. At Hastings he was seen holding on to the railings defying the waves. Gapon then walked down the steps, and a wave came and washed him away. Gallant efforts were made to rescue the man, but when the body was recovered life was extinct.

Gapon's brother found dead in Eastbourne - Derby Daily Telegraph 13. [High quality version follows.](#)

Editor. (Mar. 13, 1906). FATHER GAPON'S BROTHER DROWNED, WASHED INTO THE SEA AT HASTINGS. *Derby Daily Telegraph*.

SENSATIONAL TURN OF HOTEL MYSTERY.

IS MRS. CUSHING ALIVE?

Sensational fiction is completely put in the shade by the extraordinary state of affairs disclosed yesterday in connection with what has come to be known as the Pimlico hotel mystery.

On March 11 a lady engaged rooms at Liffen's Hotel, Gillingham-street, Pimlico, and on March 14 she was found dead in bed as the result of poisoning by corrosive sublimate. A letter left behind pointed to suicide. Every care had been taken by deceased to destroy her identity. She even went so far as to say that the name signed at the foot of the letter which she left, "Marie Derval," was assumed. She was buried at Woking as "a woman unknown."

At the adjourned inquest Mrs. Gertrude Wood, wife of an American speculator, declared that the dead woman was her sister, Mrs. Laura A. Cushing, wife of a Boston millionaire. She admitted that she had not seen her sister for some months, and that on the last occasion when she passed her in Oxford-street they had not spoken. Still, she was convinced of the dead woman's identity—she recognised the handwriting as that of her sister, and a penknife and purse as being her property. She also referred to a peculiar family malformation of the third finger of the deceased's left hand, a trace of which she said was discernible in the gloves found in the bedroom at the hotel.

The Coroner, however, was by no means satisfied that the deceased's identity had been established. The mystery deepened yesterday, when the following letter written by the real Mrs. Laura A. Cushing appeared in the columns of the Paris edition of the "New York Herald":

The death of revolutionary Helene de Krebel – Krebel, London Daily News 31 March 1906. [High quality, full article follows.](#)

Editor. (Mar. 31, 1906). WHO WAS "MARIE DERVAL"? (The death of revolutionary Helene de Krebel). The London Daily News.



NSDAP. GAU WIEN
PROPAGANDAAMT / PRESSEAMT

In der letzten Folge der Wochenzeitschrift „Das Reich“ veröffentlichte

REICHSMINISTER DR. GOEBBELS

nachstehenden Aufsatz:

Der Krieg als soziale Revolution

Der Krieg Als Soziale Revolution (the War and Revolution) Josef Geobbels



(Photo Elliott and Fry.)

Mr. P. W. Wilson.
(South St. Pancras.)

Mr. Philip Whitwell Wilson is one of four members of the staff of "The Daily News" who are candidates for London constituencies. Mr. Wilson is a member of a well-known Westmorland family, a Cambridge man, a President of the Union and editor of "The Granta." He is little over thirty, and has already made his mark in many directions, his book, "Why We Believe," having won the highest tributes from critics so far apart as Canon Scott Holland and the Methodist journals. He is a familiar figure on the platform, and at the P.S.A.'s of London, and is actively associated with Mr. Silvester Horne's work at the Whitefield Tabernacle.

Philip Whitwell Wilson, MP Candidate

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1905.

WITH FATHER GAPON.

HIS STORY OF THE MASSACRE.

SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS.

(By Dr. David Soskice.)

"What struck me most of all during those historic days," said Father Gapon to me, "was the behaviour of the women. The courage they displayed while under the fire of the soldiers and their splendid solidarity with the men was really astonishing. It was not in tens or hundreds that they joined the movement and signed the petition to the Czar, but in thousands, tens of thousands, en masse—almost without exception! Nothing was more touching than their faith in the righteousness of our cause."

The brilliant dark eyes of Father Gapon grew dim, and an expression of sadness passed across his face. He was silent for awhile; and the twilight gradually deepened in the room in which we were sitting.

"I especially remember two women who persisted in walking before me, in order to protect me from the bullets with their own bodies. I tried in vain to dissuade them, and at last I was obliged to ask some of the men to lead them away by force. I don't think they are living now. . . ."

"Were there many killed?" I inquired.

"The best were killed. . . ."

His pale face had grown paler still, and deep lines of suffering had spread across his high forehead when he spoke again.

"They acted in a fiendish way. People say that bugles gave the warning in other places . . . but we were not warned . . . they shot us down like dogs! Poor women and children! The volleys followed each other without interruption—as if from machine guns. When the shooting began, my dear friend Vassily, the chairman of our society, shouted to the people—'Lie down!'—and he himself fell. I also cried to them to lie down, and we all threw ourselves down upon the snow. When the firing ceased I stood up, and with a few others here and there, but the great masses of the first rows lay prostrate. I cried to them 'Stand up!' but they lay still. . . . I could not understand. . . . Why do they lie there? . . . I looked, and saw that their arms were stretched out lifelessly . . . and blood on the snow! Then I understood . . . it was horrible. . . . And my Vassily lay dead at my feet!"

I felt horror creeping into my heart.

"It is wonderful that you escaped unhurt!" I ejaculated.

"It was a miracle! Indeed it was a miracle! The night before we all had sworn that we would reach the Czar or die! We knew that they would shoot at us, but we did not think of such wanton slaughter, and we had faith in our numbers and in our determination. We believed that if our blood was spilt it would prepare the ground for the triumph of our cause. When I stood up and saw those behind the rows of the dead—the procession stretched almost endlessly, it seemed, into the distance—I ordered the people to gather round me and to march forward. They wavered for awhile, some fled, but the mass went onward with me to find the Czar. Again we were stopped, and slashed at with swords and fired upon by the endless volleys. But nothing

could break our determination until after the last volley, when I again stood up, unhurt, and found only two or three workmen able to rise with me. They pushed me into a by-street, and tore off my cassock; one of them drew scissors from his pocket and quickly cropped my hair; another, a poor ragged fellow, put his coat upon me and his cap, and I was taken to the house of a friend who immediately shaved off my beard, and after that I went to G—. He is a good—a really noble man . . ."

"I should have gone mad living through all that!" I remarked.

"Many have said that to me . . ."

We discussed the situation in Russia for many hours, and the prospect of the cause. For obvious reasons I cannot enter into the details of our conversation. I will only mention that Father Gapon is as determined as ever to lead the people of Russia to their attack upon Czarism. But he does not believe that the eleventh hour has come.

"I am pessimistic," he told me. "I do not believe in the possibility of an immediate general insurrection. Before our cause can triumph much—very much blood will yet be spilt, and many lives sacrificed. But one thing is certain: that the upheaval cannot be smoothed over by any power in the world. It will grow and spread till it swallows the worn-out régime. And we must work for it!"

David Soskice writing for the Daily News, June 02nd 1905. According to a letter to James Pinker dated November 1905, Soskice's brother-in-law, Ford Madox Ford claims Gapon stayed at Soskice's house at 90 Brook Green Hammersmith. In 1906 Ford's agent sent him to Rhode Island, where Philip Whitwell Wilson had married several years earlier. [See full newspaper page following.](#)

BALTIC GUN RUNNER.

MYSTERY OF THE JOHN GRAFTON.

The word "London," almost obliterated, has, says Reuter, been found on the hull of the unknown vessel, believed to be the John Grafton, of London, which recently went ashore with a cargo of arms near Kalfskoer, and was blown up by the crew. There were 5,000 rifles on board, and watchmen have been posted on all the Skjold islands in the vicinity of the wreck to prevent the stealing of weapons which are being washed up for a long distance along the coast owing to a storm. Many cases of revolvers have thus been picked up. The whereabouts of the crew is still a mystery.

A Jacobstad telegram states that the papers of the steamer have now been recovered, and prove that she really was the John Grafton, of London. The divers state that there are still a thousand rifles in the hold.

A Guernsey correspondent says that on September 1st a steamer, the John Grafton, presumably the vessel blown up in the Baltic, brought up in the morning to the north-east of Sark, outside the three miles limit, and was joined by a steamer, the Fullerton, of about 5,000 tons. The assistance of local pilots was declined, and the Fullerton began to transfer a cargo to the John Grafton. The work was completed by eleven o'clock next morning, when the Fullerton steamed away to the south and the John Grafton to the east. Fishermen state that the cargo transferred was in large casks, the contents of which are unknown.

According to a South Shields correspondent the blowing up of the mysterious steamer, supposed to be the John Grafton, in the Gulf of Bothnia, has created much discussion at South Shields, where a vessel of that name traded regularly for a considerable number of years.

The fate of the mysterious John Grafton steamship from London, purchased to run arms to Russia at the height of the 1905 Revolution. Southern Echo - Friday 15 September 1905. [High quality version of this article follows.](#)

Editor. (Sep. 15, 1905). Baltic Gun Runner (steamer John Grafton). *Southern Daily Echo*.

Preferred U. S. to Germany

He explained the similarity of the Democracy of England and that of the United States, saying that there never was any great difference in either's point of view. "English democracy had nothing to do with the misunderstandings between you and us," he said. "We didn't get the vote till 1834 and we weren't educated in the sense that you are educated till 1870."

"Previous to 1890 England was pro-German. Joseph Chamberlain tried to bring about an alliance between Germany and England. We found then that Germany was trying to embroil us with the United States over the Venezuelan question and other international policies. We had to choose between loyalty to Germany and loyalty to America. We chose and Germany began to build a navy so she could force her way around the British Isles to the New World."

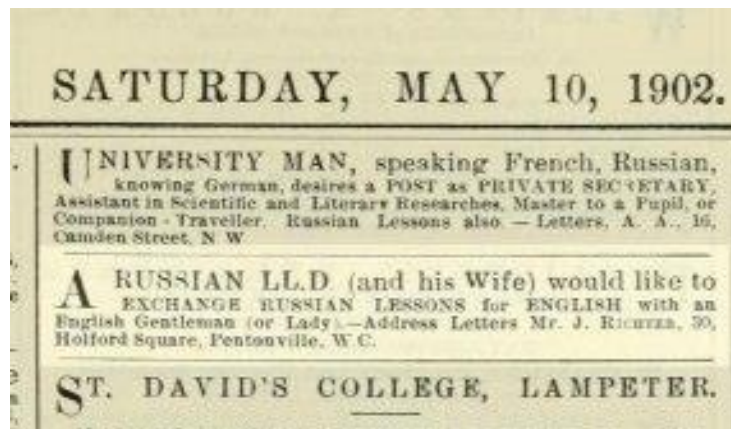
"Our friendship for the United States forced us to take up the gage of battle. There isn't any such thing as the British Empire. There isn't a province that can't break away. India, with Germany sending floods of propaganda through Persia, required only 15,000 white troops. How absurd it is to call Britain an Empire in the Roman or German sense!"

"Ireland could and should have Home Rule today if it were not for Ulster. Everyone but Ulster wants Ireland to have Home Rule—even Sir Edward Carson. I believe that she will get Home Rule even if Ulster has to be dealt with. John Redmond's wish to delay Home Rule was nothing more than a desire to get everyone to agree before it was adopted."

Wilson's views in India and Irish Home Rule – The Boston Globe 23 April 1918. [A high quality version of this article follows.](#)



Wilson's prophetic vision of Nato and the European Union - Boston Daily Globe 23 April 1918. [High quality version of this article follows.](#)



Vladimir I. Lenin, aka "Mr. J. Richter [Jacob]" language lesson exchange notice, Athenaeum, May 10, 1902.

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3889.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902.

THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)
Patron—HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
President—G. W. PROTHERO, Esq., Litt. D., LL.D.
AN ORDINARY MEETING will be held on THURSDAY, May 15, at 3 P.M. in CLIFFORD'S INN HALL, Fleet Street, when Mr. I. R. LEABAM, M.A., will read a Paper on 'A Star Chamber Case in the Reign of Henry VII.' HUBERT HALL, Director and Hon. Secretary.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—The ANNUAL MEETING of the SOCIETY, for the Election of PRESIDENT and COUNCIL, &c., will be held in the THEATRE, BURLINGTON GARDENS, on MONDAY, May 20, at 3 P.M., the PRESIDENT in the Chair.
The ANNUAL DINNER of the SOCIETY will take place on MONDAY, May 20, at 7 for 7.30 P.M., at the WHITEHALL ROOMS, HOTEL METROPOLITAIN, Whitehall Place, S.W., Sir CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., F.R.S., President, in the Chair. Fellows who propose to attend are requested to leave their Names at the Society's Office on or before MAY 19, after which places will be allotted.

UNIVERSITY MAN, speaking French, Russian, knowing German, desires a POST as PRIVATE SECRETARY, Assistant in Scientific and Literary Researches, Master to a Pupil, or Companion-Traveler. Russian Lessons also.—Letters, A. A., 16, Camden Street, N.W.

A RUSSIAN LL.D. (and his Wife) would like to EXCHANGE RUSSIAN LESSONS for ENGLISH with an English Gentleman (or Lady).—Address Letters Mr. J. RICHTER, 30, Holford Square, Pentonville, W.C.

ST. DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER.

CLASSICAL LECTURER REQUIRED in OCTOBER. Stipend 160*l.*, Rooms, and Capitation Fees.
Particulars from the PRINCIPAL, to whom applications should be sent by JUNE 7.

BOROUGH of WEST HARTLEPOOL.

FRANCE.—The ATHENÆUM can be obtained at the following Railway Stations in France:—

AMIENS, ANTWERP, BRAYLUS-SUR-MER, BARRITZ, BORDAUX, BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, CALAIS, CANNES, DIJON, DUNKIRK, HAVRE, LILLE, LYONS, MARSILLES, METZ, MONACO, NANTES, NICE, PARIS, FAU, SAINT RAPHAEL, TOULON, TOULOUSE.

And at the GALIGNANI LIBRARY, 254, Rue de Rivoli, Paris.

MESSRS. J. M. DENT & CO. will be greatly obliged if the Gentlemen signing himself "AN ADMIRER NORTH OF THE TWEED", who called upon them on Wednesday, the 30th ult., will favour them with his Name and Address. They have handed to the AUTHOR of "KIARTAN THE ICELANDER" the bank note for 100*l.*, and he is deeply anxious both for the privilege of thanks and to compensate circumstances of interest.
Aldine House, Bedford Street, London.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902

UNIVERSITY MAN, speaking French, Russian, knowing German, desires a POST as PRIVATE SECRETARY, Assistant in Scientific and Literary Researches, Master to a Pupil, or Companion-Traveler. Russian Lessons also.—Letters, A. A., 16, Camden Street, N.W.

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BOROUGH of WEST HARTLEPOOL.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.c109524895&view=1up&seq=591>

J. Richter. (May 10, 1902). Personals Section, A Russian LL.D (and his Wife [Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya]) would like to EXCHANGE RUSSIAN LESSONS for ENGLISH with an English Gentleman (or Lady). -- Address Letters Mr. J. RICHTER [Vladimir Ilyich Lenin], 30 Holford Square, Pentonville, W.C. [Homw of Samuel Frederick Deering, Solicitor's Clerk/Civil Servant]. *The Athenaeum*.

Sailors' and Firemen's Union '87; was imprisoned during Cardiff strike, 91. Maritime Hall, West India Dock Road, London, E.
Wilson, Philip Whitwell (L.), elected for St. Pancras, South D., Jan. 15th, 1906; *b.* '75; E. Kendal Grammar School and Clare Coll., Cambridge; was President of the Union and editor of the *Granta*; assistant editor *Daily News*; author of "Why We Believe"; "Liberty and Religion"; member council Whitefield's Central Mission. 16, Percy Circus, W.C. *National Liberal.*
Wilson, William Tyson (Lab.), elected for

Hazell's Annual (1908) Wilson, Philip Whitwell. [High quality version follows.](#)



Map from early 1900s showing Percy Circus.

any belonged to them.

WILL THERE BE WAR?

The Chairman said they had chosen that Sunday for their meeting because, notwithstanding the position of Mr Asquith and the Government and the Opposition as well, they saw that there was a fear that we were on the verge of war—war in a sense that no living person in this country had ever known. No living person could recollect the foot of the invader being on our shores. It was evident that the danger was likely to be first seen on the shores of the Firth of Forth. It was not for nothing that all those preparations were being made, and that these battleships were continually moving about our waters. The Socialists had sources of information as well as the Government and the Opposition, and they also feared that war was dangerously near. Harry Quelch was no scaremonger, but he had sources of information open to him that were closed to most people, and for that reason they had taken that opportunity for hearing him speak. (Applause.)

Comrade Quelch said that some of them connected with the paper *Justice* were accused of being scaremongers, but Socialists claimed to be in favour of peace always. They, however, believed there was a danger of war, and they demanded, before everything else, that the people of the nation should be informed of what was going on. They demanded that this secret diplomacy should cease. Why had treaties been entered into with Russia? In all sections of the community an arrangement of understanding with the bloodstained Muscovite despotism was decidedly unpopular. Most people were unconcerned about the nation's foreign policy, and yet that was what, to a large extent, determined our domestic policy. The amount spent in Dreadnoughts was not available for social reform. War was, in his opinion, the one safeguard of the capitalist system, and was to-day the only alternative to social revolution. The great burden and risk of war fell on the working classes. War and its possibilities had a tendency to keep back the Socialist movement and hinder social revolution. It was necessary to the capitalists, but under Socialism it would become unnecessary. (Hear, hear.) In connection with the present war scare, he was of opinion that it was well founded. Europe was face to face with a menace on the part of Germany. Germany was preparing for war, and these preparations had been encouraged by the diplomacy and foreign policy of the British Government. That was one reason why

the people should be informed what was going on in foreign affairs. There was an idea that Mr Chamberlain had wanted the war with the Boers, but no idea could be more mistaken. It was the results of war that were wanted by the capitalistic forces behind Mr Chamberlain, and these were much stronger than the Government. Of course, now we had got the South African mines we were very prosperous in consequence. (Laughter.) Since the death of Queen Victoria our foreign policy had been in the direction of isolating Germany, and that policy had gone far towards the forming of a war party in that country. This should be prevented as far as possible, but unless the people knew what was going on, how could they prevent it? It was inconceivable, with all this preparation on the part of Britain, that there was no apprehension of hostilities on the part of Germany, but the people should be made aware of what the fear was. (Applause.) While capitalists were deprecating war they were all the time producing things that made war inevitable. It was only waste that would keep the capitalist system going, and the productivity of the country in proportion to the labour employed was growing immensely. The only alternative to war was Social revolution. The Socialists wished to prevent war, so as to be allowed to go on with their propaganda of agitation, education, and organisation. (Applause.)

In reply to a question, Comrade Quelch said he doubted very much if we had men to man the Dreadnoughts after they were built. He was not in favour of an increase in the strength of the Fleet. The point was that the people should know where they were in their relations with Germany, and the state of our own defences. There was much uneasiness as to the ability of our Fleet to hold the North Sea, or prevent an invasion of these shores.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the speakers.

Harry Quelch 1909 War and the Social Revolution - *St. Andrews Citizen* - Saturday 01 May 1909. [A high quality version follows.](#)

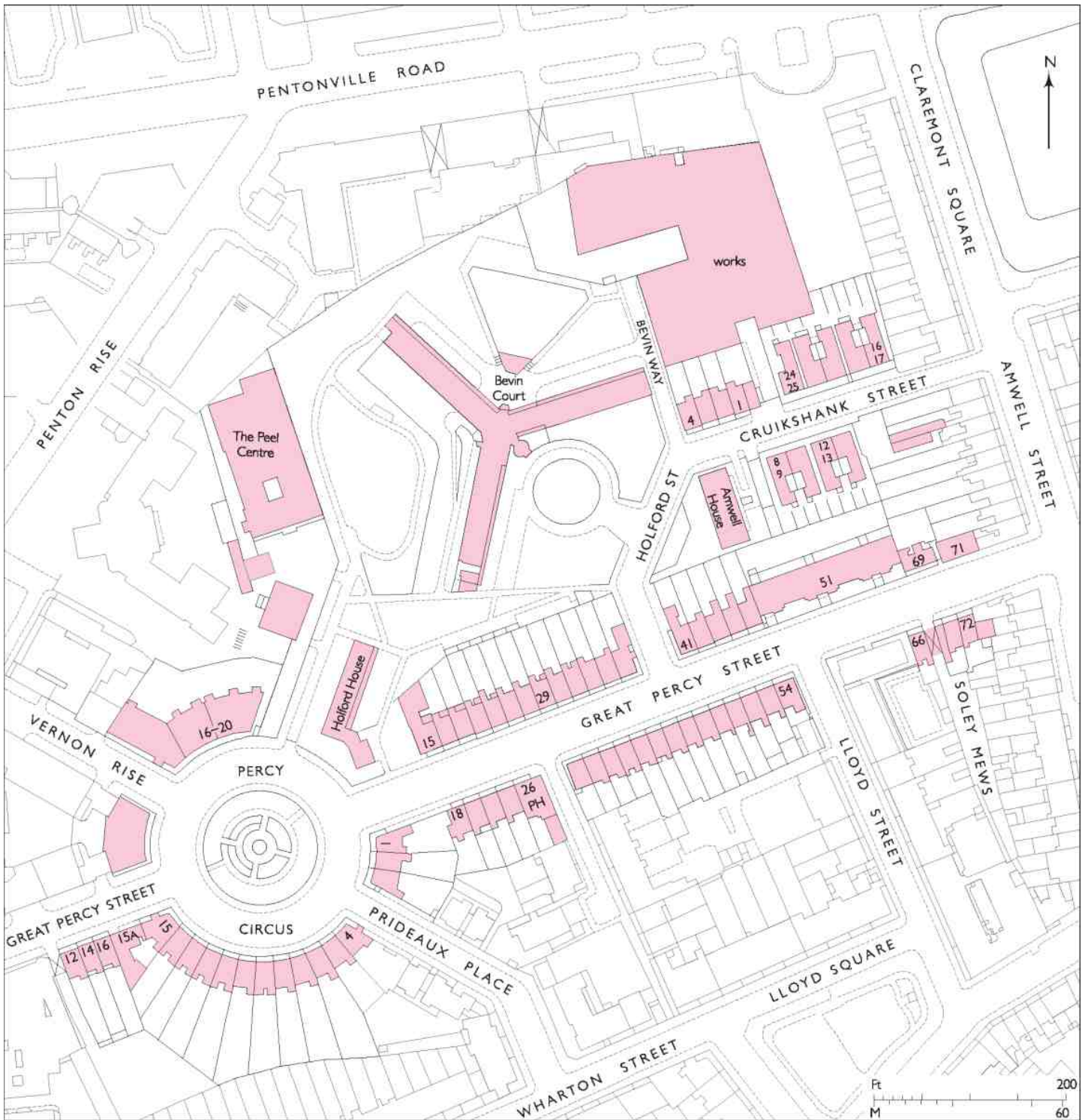
Harry Quelch. (May 01, 1909). War and the Social Revolution. *The St. Andrews Citizen*.

CHAPTER IX. Percy Circus Area

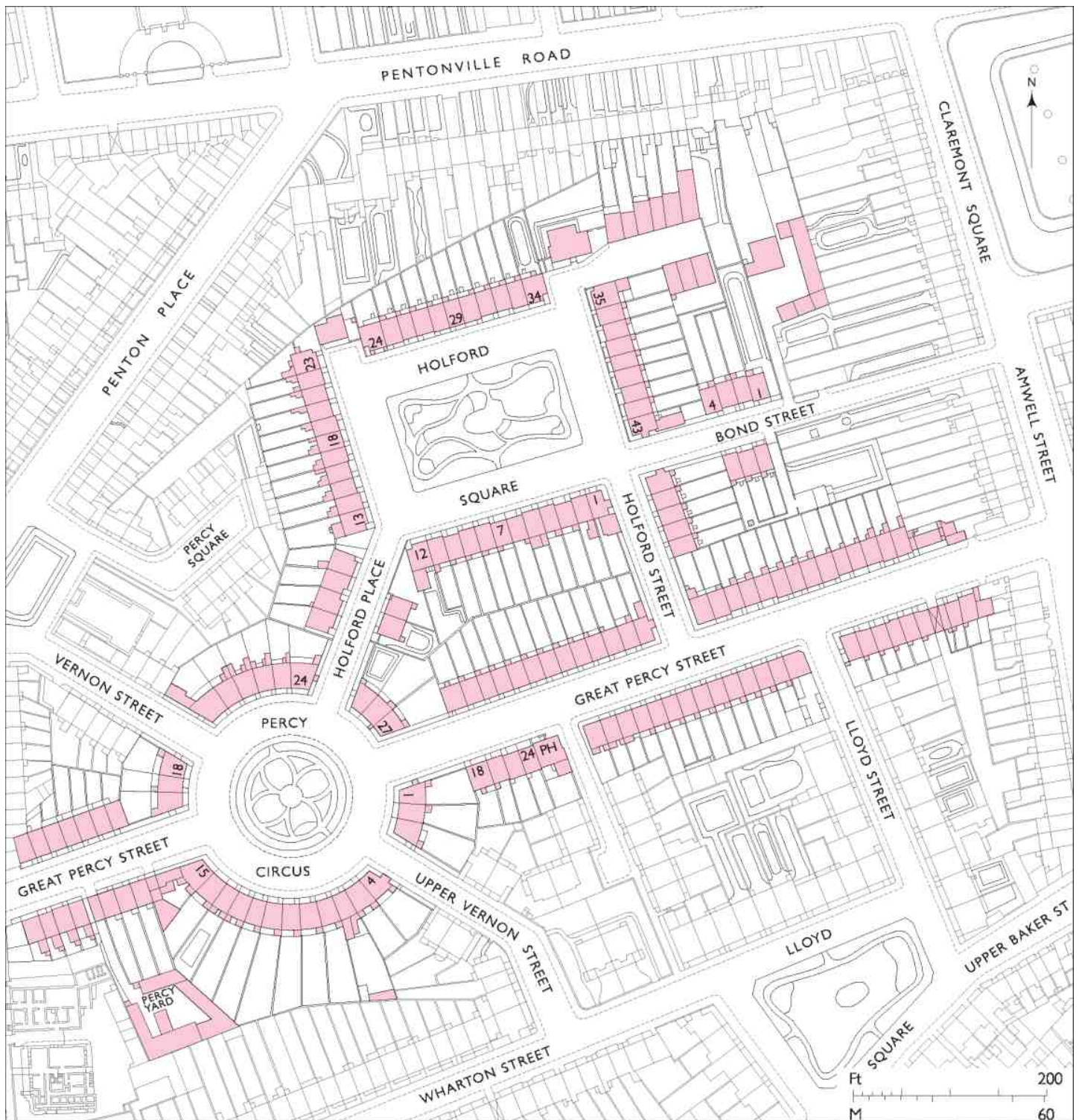


278. Percy Circus and Bevin Court area from the north-east in 2001

The hillside area described in this chapter was Clerkenwell's last big undeveloped space, mainly consisting of a single field belonging to the New River Company. It was mostly built up in the 1840s, though development began in the early 1820s with Great Percy Street (partly on the adjoining estate of the Lloyd Baker family). This was followed by Percy Circus (1841–53) and Holford Square (1841–8), and building in Great Percy Street itself also continued until 1853. There has been considerable redevelopment, the main loss being Holford Square, which was heavily bombed in the Second World War and replaced by the radial-winged Bevin Court flats, an arresting monument amidst the placidity of northern Clerkenwell. Percy Circus too was severely bomb damaged but survives, a significant and unusual piece of early Victorian townscape. Chronologically disparate though it now is, the area's topography has integrity arising from strongly geometric planning and good architecture (lls 277–80).



279. Percy Circus and Bevin Court area



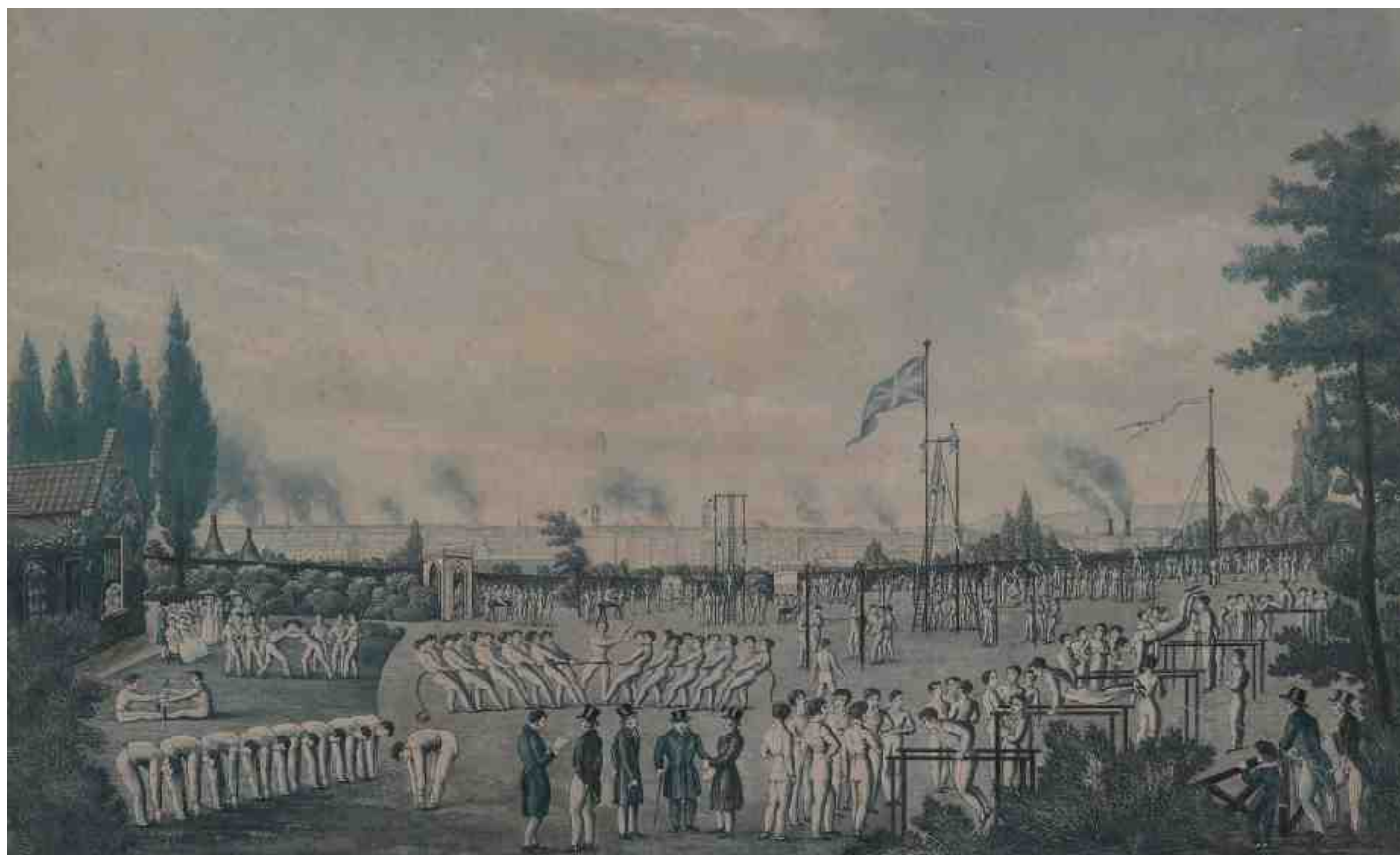
280. Percy Circus and Holford Square area, c. 1874

A general account of the New River Company's estate, outlining its history, first development and architectural character, is given in Chapter VII. Accounts of Prideaux Place and Cumberland Gardens (developed in conjunction with the Lloyd Baker Estate), are given in Chapter XI, and the westernmost parts of the estate, in and around King's Cross Road and Penton Rise, are described in Chapter XII.

Myddelton Gardens and the London Gymnastic Institute

The laying out of the Lloyd Baker estate in the 1820s and 30s left the New River Company in possession of isolated open ground to the north, previously known as the Hanging Field. This had been used by Richard Laycock, the tenant of the New Inn Farm, for brickmaking from 1811, and from 1820, in the absence of interest in building leases, for subletting as small pleasure gardens, in effect allotments, some with little summer houses. These were called Myddelton Gardens. (fn. 1)

In the late 1820s, when it would have been clear that further development was contingent on the market picking up again, one piece of ground found another, if shortlived, use. This was at the end of a road, later to become part of Great Percy Street, leading from Amwell Street as far as Cumberland Terrace and the New River Company's West Pond. There a rectangular plot, previously one of the larger pleasure gardens, was used as an open-air gymnasium in the late 1820s. The site is now covered more or less by Nos 18–26 Great Percy Street, the west side of Cumberland Gardens and Nos 1–3 Percy Circus (Ill. 281).



281. The London Gymnastic Society gymnasium, Myddelton Gardens, in 1826, looking south-west

The gymnasium was the project of a German immigrant, Professor Karl Voelker, and tied up with a burst of enthusiasm for German-style physical culture. Voelker was a pupil of Professor Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, the Prussian founder of the Turnverein movement, for whom physical education was vital to personal and national character, and a levelling force across classes. Both men had left Berlin to fight for their country in 1813–15, before separately arousing official hostility, Jahn going to prison and Voelker eventually ending up in London. In 1825 Voelker established a gymnastic school off the New Road near Regent's Park, launching it with a testimonial from Robert Owen. The following year a London Gymnastic Society was founded on the initiative of John Borthwick Gilchrist, philologist, orientalist, republican and co-founder in 1823 of the London Mechanics' Institution. Gilchrist, whose enthusiasm for gymnastics arose from having lived in India, proposed hiring a ground for exercises, to do for the bodies of 'mechanics' what the institution was doing for their minds. With Voelker's backing and guidance the new society set up apparatus at Myddelton Gardens and established the London Gymnastic Institute. This emphasized the moral and spiritual value of physical exercise and was an immediate success, attracting many hundreds of young men, as well as spectators. Summer festivals were held in 1827 and 1828, and branches were established at Voelker's Marylebone site, in Hackney and in Southwark. George Cruikshank was a leading and, in relation to Myddelton Gardens, local advocate of this self-improvement movement. Having patronized, drawn and publicized the Marylebone site, he sat on the institute's managing committee. The society's sudden demise c. 1829 followed the departure of Thomas Latimer, its energetic secretary; with it the institute too seems to have come to an end. (fn. 2)

Great Percy Street



282. Great Percy Street, view of upper section, looking east to Amwell Street in 1906



283. Nos 19–39 Great Percy Street (left to right) in 2005. W. C. Mylne, surveyor, 1839–43

Great Percy Street, connecting Amwell Street with King's Cross Road by way of Percy Circus, was planned by 1818 and its exact line settled with the Lloyd Baker Estate in 1820. It takes its name from Robert Percy Smith, Governor of the New River Company from 1827 to his death in 1845. Above Percy Circus the street has harmony if not unity, achieved by two estates working together, much as on Amwell Street. The broad road sweeps downhill between stately terraces, in this instance without shops or much traffic (Ills 282, 283). Buildings on the south side that follow the type established on the New River estate in the 1820s were, in fact, on Lloyd Baker ground, in what was originally Soley Terrace. Otherwise, with the exception of Amwell Cottage, there is now nothing else here earlier than 1839. At that point the New River Estate began to countenance some updating of its architectural vocabulary. None of the later houses, though, rival the refined Italianate idiom of the Percy Arms public house of 1839–40, designed by R. C. Carpenter. The upper part of the street was completed in 1843, but it was another decade before the lower stretch beyond Percy Circus was finished. The latter section has been largely redeveloped, and now seems an entirely different place. The street is presented here in east-west sequence, crossing from side to side to maintain a broadly chronological account of development. (fn. 3)

No. 69, Amwell Cottage

Of only two storeys and double-fronted, this stucco 'cottage', as it was first described in the ratebooks, is an oddity in this location, suggesting ignorance of, or insouciance about, the high-density development planned by the New River Company. It was built in 1821–2, before anything else was standing in the immediate vicinity, though Amwell Street was already being laid out and the new cottage was soon followed by a row of houses to its west (Ills 284, 285). Originally called Myddelton House, the small-roomed dwelling may have been built in connection with Richard Laycock's Myddelton Gardens venture, perhaps as a kind of keeper's lodge. There appears to be no mention of the building in the New River Company records, but its architectural elements fall within the estate norms and it may be that Mylne supplied the designs. (fn. 4) In 1843, when Joseph King took up residence, it became a dairy, which it remained until the 1960s. The adjacent and much-altered garage building at No. 71, erected as an outbuilding to the cottage c. 1890, when David Williams, cow-keeper, had the premises, perhaps served as a dairy, cow-house and stables. (fn. 5)



284. Great Percy Street, north side, in 1939. Right, Amwell Cottage (No. 69), 1821–2; left, Amwell Terrace (Nos 55–67), 1822–6, *demolished*. W. C. Mylne, surveyor



285. Amwell Cottage, front elevation in 1933

Nos 55–67 (demolished) and Sanders House

The seven houses that formerly stood immediately west of Amwell Cottage were originally known as Amwell Terrace (Ill. 284). They were built in 1822–6 following an agreement with William Oliver, Nos 59 and 61 by Oliver himself, the others by George Paul. The whole group, with the later Nos 51 and 53 (see below), was cleared after bombing in April 1941. (fn. 6) The site was redeveloped by the New River Company in 1948–50 as Sanders House (No. 51), designed by Daniel Watney, Eiloart, Inman & Nunn, and named after C. S. Sanders, the New River Company's long-serving Surveyor and later Secretary. More than any other New River Company development this stock-brick block of twenty flats has the clean horizontal lines that hint at awareness of Danish housing, widely influential in the late 1940s. (fn. 7)

Nos 28–72

Eastwards of Cumberland Gardens, the houses on the south side were built on ground belonging to the Lloyd Baker family. Twenty-three houses in two ranges, separated by Lloyd Street, were erected here in the late 1820s and early 30s under the name Soley Terrace, for reasons unknown; the name was abolished in 1862.

As in Amwell Street, the Lloyd Bakers were given access to the frontage along Great Percy Street where it abutted on their land, under an arrangement of 1820. (fn. 8) Here too it had been agreed that the houses would 'correspond' with those already built there by the New River Company. When work started on Soley Terrace, only Amwell Terrace opposite had yet been built in Great Percy Street by way of precedent. The builders broadly followed W. C. Mylne's elevations, retaining the characteristic relieving arches over the first-floor windows; as on the company's houses there are variations in detail. The slightly earlier eastern range differs from the rest of Soley Terrace in not having the white-stone impost bands between the relieving arches. Each range has iron window guards of a different stock pattern.

Work on the eastern range (Nos 56–72) had begun by 1828 and all nine houses were occupied by 1831. (fn. 9) The developer was Robert Rawlings of Red Lion Square. In 1824 Rawlings had agreed to complete Thompson's Terrace in Amwell Street, after the failure of the original builder, and to develop the ground at the back. So his 'take' included the east side of Lloyd Street, the return frontage along Great Percy Street, and the hinterland where Soley Mews was laid out. Rawlings subcontracted part of his agreement to his manager, Benjamin Bellamy, a carpenter in Spa Fields, who before succumbing to bankruptcy in 1826 probably put in some foundations. (fn. 10) The leases for this range were all issued in 1830. Rawlings himself was the lessee of Nos 64–68—then still 'in carcass'—but within days he relet them to the Hoxton builder, Benjamin Matthewson, who must have finished them off and may have built the carcasses. (fn. 11) No. 68 incorporates the arched entrance into Soley Mews (Ill. 286). The end house, No. 56, at the corner with Lloyd Street, where it had its entrance, was taken by George Farmiloe, the St John Street lead and glass merchant, though not for his own occupation. (fn. 12) This house, together with Nos 58–64, was destroyed or damaged by bombing during the Second World War: their sites are now occupied by the return wing of Cable House in Lloyd Street (see page 285).



286. Nos 66–72 Great Percy Street (part of Soley Terrace) in 2007

The fourteen houses west of Lloyd Street, now Nos 28–54, were built in 1828–31 under an agreement with George Tindall, gentleman, and George Paul of Great Saffron Hill, builder, proposed in 1825 but not signed until December 1826. (fn. 13) Slow to complete what they had undertaken, in 1829 Tindall and Paul blamed the downturn in the building cycle: 'what little ground we have let in Soley Terrace we have got nothing by and there is yet ground for five houses which we have offered over and over again at five pounds a house—the price we give'. (fn. 14) A couple of houses went to Tindall and Paul, but most to three carpenters presumably involved with the work, Thomas Herridge, Lazarus Holmes and Edward Lord. The houses quickly found tenants, Paul himself being the first occupant of No. 54. (fn. 15)

While the building slowdown of the 1820s delayed Soley Terrace for only a few years, on the New River estate Mylne waited until late 1836 before resuming development, ensuring that the roadway of what was initially called Percy Street East was at last fully made up the following year. (fn. 16) Letting of building ground recommenced in 1838, Mylne seemingly supplying designs as before—with one notable exception, a public house.

No. 26, Percy Arms

In July 1839 the architect R. C. Carpenter wrote to the New River Company on behalf of E. and W. Calvert, brewers, proposing to build a public house on Great Percy Street's west corner with what is now Cumberland Gardens, and two houses adjoining at No. 24 Great Percy Street and No. 7 Cumberland Gardens. Approval was given on the basis that this was to be the only public house on the 'Hanging Field' side of the estate. Built early in 1840, the Percy Arms was unlike anything else on either the New River or Lloyd Baker estates, and is a highly considered piece of fashionable architecture.

Carpenter's brief, no doubt, was to provide a pub which would satisfy the New River Company in upholding the respectable appearance of the estate, as well as promising good profits for the brewers. He took his Italianate design directly from a West End clubhouse, Charles Barry's Travellers' Club of 1829–32, drawings of which had been published by John Weale in June 1839. (fn. 17) Borrowing elements from both its main elevations, he reorganized them for his smaller and more vertically proportioned building. (At the same time the scholarly young architect was working with his jack-of-all-trades father on the development of Lonsdale Square in Islington, where Italianate designs of 1839 were altered to Tudor-Gothic in 1840–1. (fn. 18) Before long he was to focus on church design and Puginian Gothic.) The design of the Percy Arms was sufficiently distinguished for Weale to publish it too, as an exemplar in its own right (Ills 287, 288). (fn. 19)



287. Percy Arms public house from the north-east in 2005



288. Percy Arms public house, No. 26 Great Percy Street, plans and elevations, R. C. Carpenter, architect, 1839–40

Inside, the pub was planned for a superior clientele, with minimal space for standing and a clubroom on the first floor. Its architectural pedigree proved enduringly appropriate, and in 1898 it was described as 'the one public house of this respectable district, used much as a club by the male inhabitants'. [\(fn. 20\)](#) But at the time of building it had a negative effect on the further development of the street (see below).

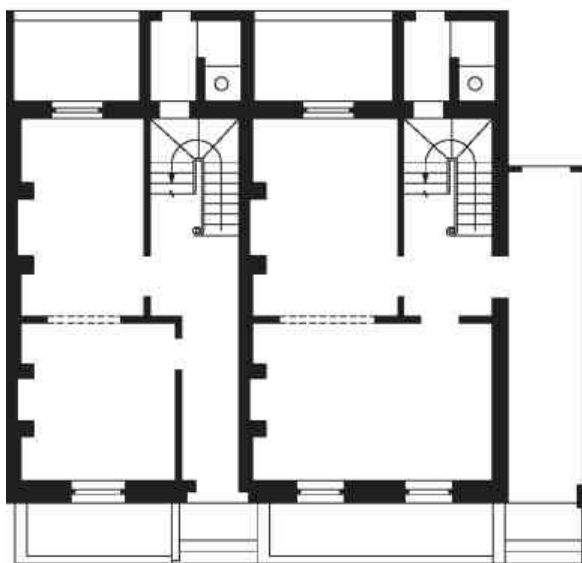
A skittle-alley extension of 1891 alongside Cumberland Gardens was latterly replaced by a conservatory. The Percy Arms closed at the beginning of the twenty-first century, and plans for a residential conversion were refused permission in 2005. [\(fn. 21\)](#)

Other houses

While the pub was going up, progress was being made on the north side of the road. Francis Sandon, a builder of White Conduit Street, had agreed to build seven houses (Nos 41–53) in 1838. The New River Company's ambitions for improving the tone of its estate at this juncture are evident in a shift with this agreement from 17 ft to 18 ft fronts, and from three to four storeys (that is, from eight rooms to ten). Nos 51 and 53 (now replaced by Sanders House) went up in 1839, as did Nos 45–49, for which William James Boulton had taken responsibility. Boulton completed the job at Nos 41 and 43 in 1841, by which time Sandon was on the verge of bankruptcy. In 1839 John Lowther, a builder of Queen's Row in the New (Pentonville) Road, undertook ten more four-storey houses (Nos 21–39). He completed Nos 37 and 39 in 1839–40, but could not let them, complaining in 1841 that eight-room houses were 'more in keeping with the neighbourhood since the Public House has been built'. [\(fn. 22\)](#) Within a year he was bankrupt. William Watkins, an Islington builder with links to James Rhodes, took over Lowther's agreement and built Nos 21–35 in 1843. [\(fn. 23\)](#) Operating as a speculator, R. C. Carpenter had in 1841 taken the westernmost plots down to Percy Circus on both sides of Great Percy Street, along with the first part of the Circus itself. The company's aspirations of three years earlier had proved unsustainable and, it seems, Lowther's observation was noted, as three-storey houses were built here, Nos 18–24 within the year, Nos 15–19 by 1842. No. 19 originally included a shop. Carpenter's principal builder was Thomas Gates James, who lived at No. 7 River Street. [\(fn. 24\)](#)

Changes in scale aside there was a gradual move away from the architectural vocabulary of the 1820s. Sandon's speculation at Nos 41–53 echoed Amwell Terrace in its seven-bay composition, but with first-floor stucco architraves and stucco cornices on the outer pairs, and no blind arcading (Ils 282, 283). The development by Lowther and Watkins at Nos 21–39 marches commandingly and voluminously up the hill, cornice bands stepping up under attics, some of which have round-headed windows, perhaps simply for the sake of variety, something that had not previously been a deliberate aim in the estate's longer terraces. Only the pair that Lowther finished himself has upper-storey architraves. Watkins left his windows bare, while introducing a second tier of iron guards and re-introducing round-arched ground-floor windows. Carpenter's smaller houses have or had simple stucco architraves, but are otherwise unremarkable, and entirely typical of their date (Ill. 289). Cornices on all these houses hide butterfly roofs, unlike Soley Terrace. Other details reflect changing fashions, from acanthus balconies to rectangular fanlights, often with lozenge leading, as on the Lloyd Baker estate. Generally, there are two-room rearstaircase plans, the end-of-terrace houses differing with side entrances, some in porches, the best of these being at No. 39. The porch at No. 15 was added in 1853 and that at No. 18 was rebuilt in 1976–7. There has been some refronting, in 1908–13 and since. [\(fn. 25\)](#)

The south side of the short western section of Great Percy Street beyond Percy Circus was built up in 1840–2. Nos 12–16, which survive, were built by Samuel Harris. Nos 2–10, pulled down for the new Clerkenwell police court (see page 308), were put up by Charles Frederick Smyrke, a timber merchant, in front of his development of Percy Yard. This timber yard, occupied by a billiardtable manufacturer in the 1850s, is now a car park for King's Cross Police Station. The north side here, entirely replaced by what is now the Travelodge Islington hotel, was developed in two parcels. Nos 1 and 3, of 1844–6, were built by William Morgan, a box maker, and Nos 5–13, of 1847–53, by Abraham Riddiford, a builder working under James Rhodes's agreement of 1847 whereby Rhodes undertook to complete development on the New River estate (Ill. 290). [\(fn. 26\)](#)



289. Nos 18 and 20 Great Percy Street, reconstructed front elevation and ground-floor plan. R. C. Carpenter, developer, 1841

As the development history of Great Percy Street as a whole has implied, the New River Company's aspirations for this part of its estate were not wholly successful. While Nos 57 and 67 were occupied by solicitors and their families in 1841, No. 51 had become a lodging-house, run by Maria Louisa Bell, alone with her five children. James Harrison, an architect, lived at No. 55 for a few years from 1841, and John Brain, an engraver, was the first occupant of the smaller house at No. 15 in 1842; they later worked together in Holford Square (below). No. 16 Great Percy Street was already divided into three households in 1851, and in 1871 five houses were described as lodging-houses and many households took in lodgers. In 1898 Charles Booth's inspectors found the west end of Great Percy Street 'all lodging houses'. (fn. 27) Houses that remained undivided had mixed trade and professional occupancy. No. 15 was extended to the rear in 1920 when it was used as offices by the National Union of General Workers for part of their National Health Insurance Department. (fn. 28) As elsewhere on the estate, further sub-division and municipalization have been followed by gentrification.

Percy Circus

Percy Circus was begun in 1841, and not brought to completion until 1853. Uniquely complex, it has five unevenly spaced entry points, and is laid out on the side of a steep hill (llls 279, 280, 291–4). From this difficult starting point, success was achieved through picturesque variation in the house elevations, deftly enlivened by recession and projection, adding up to what Christopher Hussey, in 1939, called a 'monumental conception' and 'one of the most delightful bits of town planning in London'. (fn. 29) Architectural significance here arises not simply from these intrinsic qualities, but also from the rarity and poor survival of the circus form in London. Around the railed central garden are fifteen of the original twenty-seven houses. The three northern sections were bombed, and nine of the twelve demolished houses have been replaced in pastiche form.



290. Great Percy Street, lower section, looking east to Percy Circus in 1906. Left, Nos 1–13, built 1844–53 (*demolished*); right, flank of Clerkenwell Police Court, King's Cross Road



291. Nos 19–27 Percy Circus (left to right) in 1939. Entrance to Holford Place between buildings. *Demolished*

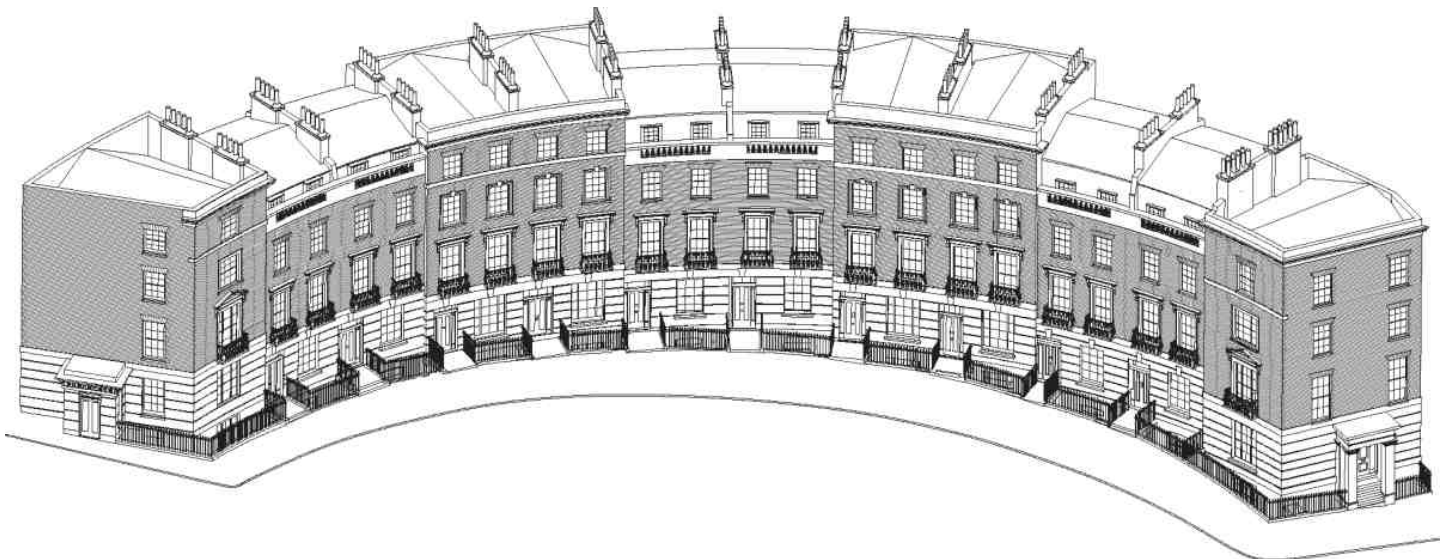


292. Nos 16–18 Percy Circus in 1965. Nos 7–13 Great Percy Street to left. *All demolished*



293. Nos 4–15 Percy Circus (left to right) in 1937

The genesis of the circus layout is obscure. It was not an early intention of Mylne's, but an irregular crossing was inevitable by 1820 given the convergence of the lines of what became Great Percy Street and Vernon Street (later Vernon Rise and Prideaux Place), the latter determined by a water main from the West Pond. Circuses had seldom been deployed in the development of London estates, though Robert Mylne was projecting a small one at London Spa as early as 1805, an idea sustained by W. C. Mylne until at least 1818, perhaps following S. P. Cockerell's intended half-circus at the west end of Spencer Street (see *Survey of London*, volume xlvi). (fn. 30) Bath's Royal Circus had failed to generate close metropolitan imitations after George Dance the Younger's America Circus, near Tower Hill, of 1768–74. Dance's own Finsbury Circus, designed in 1802 but not laid out until 1815–17, and Piccadilly Circus, formed in 1819, may have given Mylne more local and contemporary inspiration, but neither of these was as pure in form as Percy Circus. It may also be relevant that Mylne was of Scottish descent; perhaps he cast an eye northwards to Edinburgh New Town, where the Royal Circus was built in 1821–3. There is another possible link, with Royal Circus in Norwood, south London, laid out c. 1826 by John Wilson, possibly the John Wilson who had developed Wilmington Square. (fn. 31)



294. Nos 4–15 Percy Circus, perspective view. R. C. Carpenter, architect, 1841–53

The laying out of Percy Circus did not begin until 1839–40, when circuses were less fashionable. George Mansfield built the southern roadway, and then in April 1841 presented a tender for railing in and planting the whole circus. The northern roadway followed in 1842. In March 1841 R. C. Carpenter, attending the New River Company board as architect to unidentified 'employers', proposed to build the first houses. He was perhaps working for William James Boulton, who wrote to the company on his behalf in 1845. (A solicitor who acted for the Carpenter family in their Lonsdale Square development, Boulton occupied a house in Northampton Square, now No. 12 Sebastian Street, which had previously been Carpenter's uncle Thomas's.) His first scheme for the circus involved a change to Mylne's frontages and was rejected. By May, however, agreement had been reached, subject to Carpenter's elevations being approved by Mylne. (fn. 32)

This was an unusual condition—normally builders simply followed Mylne's elevations—and the implication is that Carpenter himself designed the elevations. Their subtle handling and proportions certainly do not speak of Mylne, whose architectural designs were competent but unimaginative and who, in any case, had by this stage a long-settled formula for houses on the estate. Carpenter, on the other hand, was a young architect of great talent, who at this date was trying his hand at numerous styles. The two men had long known each other, and the resolution of the designs is likely to have been to some degree collaborative. Given the time it took to complete the circus it was certainly Mylne and not Carpenter who saw it through and ensured consistency in the elevations as a whole. (fn. 33)

The initial commitments made in 1841 and 1842 by Carpenter and his builder, Thomas Gates James, were to put up Nos 1–8 and 27. No. 6 was the first house finished, in 1842, but James was bankrupted in November 1843, and Carpenter had evidently left the scene. Nos 7, 8 and 27 were not complete until 1847, James's creditor Elisha Ambler, a Dalston brickmaker, having taken over. In 1846–8 Thomas Pentelow, a carpenter, built Nos 9 and 10. The timber merchant Charles Smyrke had undertaken to build Nos 13–18 in 1841, but he did nothing, and in 1846 Thomas B. Watts of No. 30 Claremont Square gained approval for plans to incorporate a 'respectable public library' on a corner plot (Nos 25–26): this too came to nothing. The turning point came in June 1847 when James Rhodes agreed to build the sixteen outstanding houses as part of his larger commitment to finish the development of the estate. Numerous builders worked under Rhodes to see to it that Percy Circus was completed by 1853, Watkins himself coming back in 1850. (fn. 34)

The following list summarizes the development. (fn. 35)

R. C. Carpenter, architect, with Thomas Gates James, builder:

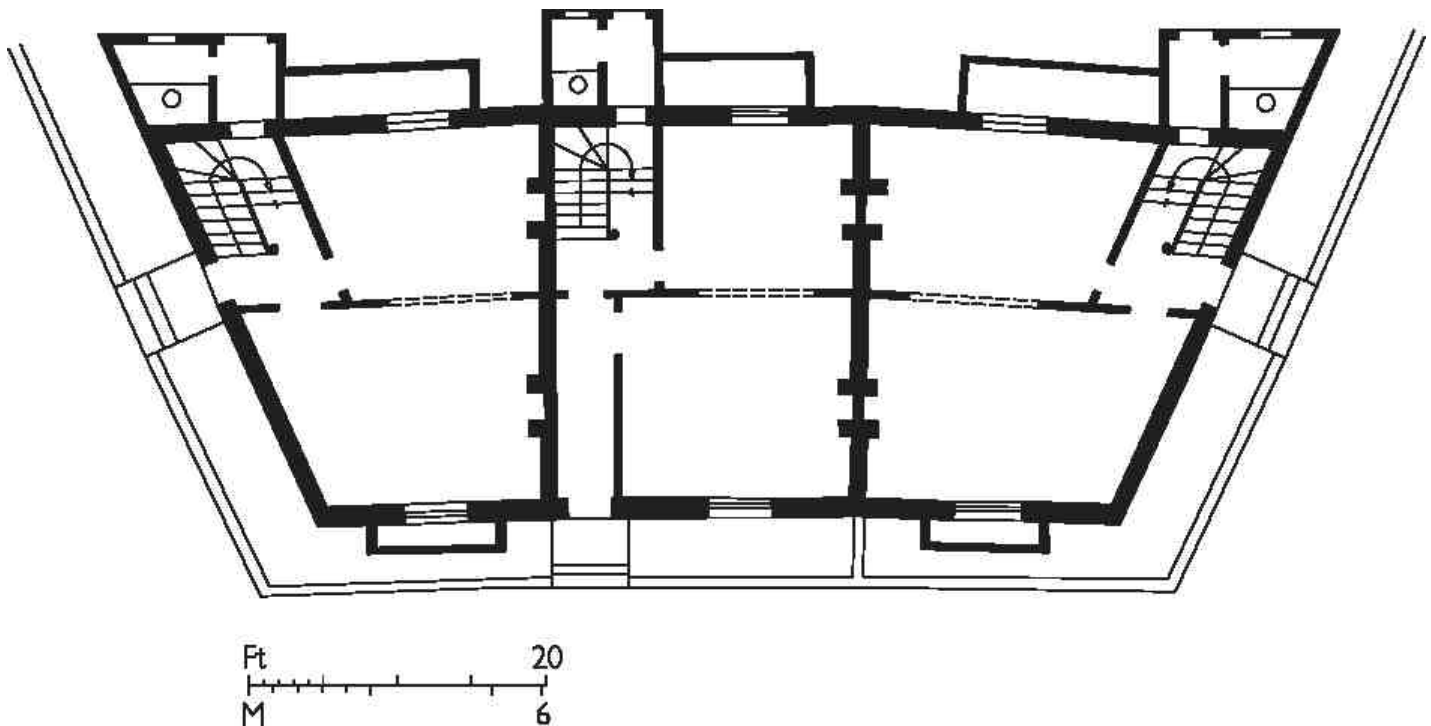
Nos 1–3. Completed by B. and G. Sheldrick, 1841–5

Nos 4–6. 1841–3

Nos 7, 8. Completed by Elisha Ambler, 1842–3 and 1845–7

Thomas Pentelow, builder:

Nos 9, 10. 1846–8



295. Nos 1–3 Percy Circus, reconstructed ground-floor plans

James Rhodes, developer:

No. 11. William Chrystal, builder, 1847–9

No. 12. James Snelling, builder, 1849–51

Nos 13–15. F. Kestevens and Snelling, builders, 1849–53

Nos 16–18. Abraham Riddiford, builder, 1849–52. *Demolished*

Nos 19–24. William Watkins, George Martin and Snelling, builders, 1850–2. *Demolished*

Nos 25, 26. James Kent Vote, builder, 1850–1. *Demolished*

No. 27. T. G. James, builder, completed by Elisha Ambler, 1841–3 and 1846–7. *Demolished*

Carpenter's elevations of 1841 were carried out with no more than minor modifications. To fit the road layout the twenty-seven houses of Percy Circus were grouped in multiples of three, with three sections of three, one of six and one of twelve. The mid-terrace houses have conventional rear-staircase layouts. Those on corners were given side entrances, in porches except at Nos 1 and 3 (Ill. 295). The best and earliest of these porches survives at No. 4, its quality seemingly reflecting Carpenter's involvement. Return elevations were left largely blind; those on Nos 3 and 4 have been opened up.

The New River Company stuck with large (ten-room) houses on Percy Circus, despite doubts as to whether they could easily be let. In spite of their size and the amenity of the circus these did not attract particularly opulent occupants. The first resident in 1842 was Borchert Brunies, a German 'fancy whalebone worker', who moved to No. 6 from No. 7 Arlington Street. He was permitted to use the premises for his work, which was deemed 'more an Art than a Trade'. (fn. 36) Dr Frederick William Fogarty, a physician and surgeon, was the first occupant of the corner house at No. 15 from 1850, when he built a two-storey surgery and coach-house extension facing Great Percy Street, now remade as a workshop (No. 15). No. 10 was already being used as a lodginghouse in 1851 when No. 9 was also divided, one household being that of an Isle of Wight farmer, Abraham Clarke, whose son, the future architect Thomas Chatfield Clarke, was that year showing a design for a national sculpture gallery at the Great Exhibition. (fn. 37) Thereafter, the proximity of King's Cross and then St Pancras stations would have been a factor in the gradual spread of lodging-house use.

In 1871 George Palmer, a publisher, lived at No. 6, while No. 19 was occupied by a ladies' underwear maker who employed twelve people on the premises. Antonio Benvenuti, a musician, had No. 23, his lodgers including Alessandro Forelli, a singer, and two Italian priests. No. 15 was occupied by doctors until at least 1910. A plaque still in place on its corner reads 'Bartlett, Surgeon, Accoucheur', suggesting a male midwife, but plausibly a cover for use of the premises for abortions, probably during the early years of the twentieth century. No. 18 then became the New River Company's estate office, and Nos 9–14 and 16 were all in use as apartments or lodgings. (fn. 38) The most celebrated of the lodgers to pass through Percy Circus was Lenin, whose brief stay at No. 16 in 1905 is commemorated by a plaque (see below). In a popular novel of 1891, by J. Maclaren Cobban, No. 10 Percy Circus was made a fictional home for down-at-heel respectability, evoking a communal, even convivial, life for a house full of lodgers who shared a kitchen and occasional meals. The Rev. William Merrydew, unable to afford his rent in Woburn Place, is obliged to step down the social ladder and to come with his daughter into this house. He is introduced by Signor Bottiglia, an 'antique dealer', who explains that Percy Circus 'is not what you say swell, but it is very jolly— very nice; and what a devil does it matter where you have lodging in London? Me, I like Pentonville; it is fresh air; it rise up out of the hole'. (fn. 39)

Nos 19–24 Percy Circus were destroyed by a wartime bomb. Nos 25–27, also damaged, were replaced in 1952–5 by Holford House (see below). Nos 16–18 were demolished in 1968 and replaced in 1970–2 by the rear part of what is now the Travelodge Islington hotel (see page 310), designed by Trehearne & Norman, Preston & Partners, architects. The block facing Percy Circus was, at the request of Islington Borough Council, to have been an 'exact replica' of the demolished buildings. Starkly purple elevations, conspicuously punctuated by vents, sit on channelled stucco lower storeys that, without any street entrance, float disconcertingly behind the area railings. (fn. 40) After half a century's disuse, other than as a car park, the site of Nos 19–24 was redeveloped by Try Homes in 1999–2000, with PRC Fewster designing a speculative block of 27 flats. Nineteen of these flats were designated Nos 16–20 Percy Circus (Ill. 296). The other eight, in a plainer block at No. 9 Vernon Rise, are 'affordable' housing for former council or Peabody Trust tenants. The 'replica' elevation here makes an instructive comparison with that of thirty years earlier at the hotel. The later work is more carefully conceived and more skilfully executed, from the use of yellow stock bricks to the detailing of the architraves, but the copying is so literal and little researched that it extends to the omission of the parapet balustrades. (fn. 41)



296. Nos 16–20 Percy Circus (left to right) in 2005. Try Homes, developers, 1999–2000

Cruikshank Street (misspelled Cruickshank on some street signs and maps) was formerly called Bond Street after one of its builders, and was renamed in 1938 in honour of George Cruikshank's residence near by. Work on this road began in 1822, but formation of the street was left in abeyance until 1838, when the development of Great Percy Street commenced. William Bond, who lived on the corner at No. 17 Claremont Square, then took a 54ft frontage to add to 30 ft he already leased beyond the end of his garden to build four three-storey houses, leaving a carriageway to stables behind. These houses were built in 1840–3 by Henry Johnson of Sekforde Street and survive as Nos 1–4.

By 1842 the street linked through to Holford Square. A further three houses were built opposite in 1843–6, along with five on the east side of Holford Street. These were all built by William Watkins, working under James Rhodes. After bombing in 1941 the site was cleared, Holford Street was realigned and Amwell House was built (see page 231). [\(fn. 42\)](#)

In 1907 the New River Company and Finsbury Borough Council together defeated a London County Council scheme for a school between Great Percy Street and Bond Street (see page 317), it being feared that the intrusion of a school into the 'best residential quarter left in Finsbury' would lower property values. [\(fn. 43\)](#) But the area's residential character had changed, and 'best' did not mean what it once had. In 1909, leases having fallen in, the company took much of the gardens of Nos 12–17 Claremont Square to build five pairs of maisonette flats (now Nos 16–25 Cruikshank Street). A year later four more pairs (Nos 8–15) were built opposite, on the gardens of Nos 75–83 Amwell Street. [\(fn. 44\)](#) The infilling of gardens for the erection of terrace 'houses' designed as flats reflects the New River estate's decline into multi-occupation by this time. Buildings of this nature, common throughout London's Edwardian working-class suburbs, look oddly out of place here, with their plain-tiled roofs and half-timbered gables (Ill. 297).



297. Nos 22–25 Cruikshank Street in 1994. New River Company maisonette flats of 1909

The carriageway east of Nos 1–4 Cruikshank Street has become Holford Mews, at the end of which is the pedimented entrance to a former engineering works, known as Holford Yard, consisting largely of north-light sheds and extending to the back of Nos 91–99 Pentonville Road (Ils 278, 279). The north-west section was built in 1923–5 as Nolan's Garage, and other buildings, replacing stables and outbuildings, were put up between 1928 and 1938 for E. J. L. Delfosse's Ormond Engineering Co. Ltd, manufacturers of screws and radio components. The north-east part was built in 1928–33, the southern part and the fivestorey building at Nos 91–99 Pentonville Road in 1937–8, all to designs by Lewis Solomon & Son, architects, with Henry Kent as builders. (fn. 45)

Sir Frank George Young, biochemist and educationist, was born at No. 2 in 1908, the son of a solicitor's clerk. (fn. 46)

Holford Square

Holford Square existed for just a century. Built up in 1841–8, it was badly bombed in 1941 and wholly destroyed in the post-war reconstruction. This was a fate in contrast to that of Myddelton Square and Percy Circus, the two chief set-pieces of town-planning on the New River Company's estate, which also suffered war-damage. At Holford Square the damage was that much greater. After some attempts at rebuilding, the whole square was demolished and its imprint lost when Bevin Court replaced it in the early 1950s.



298. Holford Square, 1841–8, north-east corner in 1937. No. 30, where Lenin lived, to left of foreground tree. *Demolished*

The square was named after Charles Holford, Governor of the New River Company from 1815 to 1827, whose family had long been prominent in the company's affairs. Building began on the south side and finished on the north. The first houses, Nos 1 and 2, were built in 1841 by George Bugg, carpenter, of Exmouth Street, and leased respectively to the architect and surveyor James Harrison and the Rev. Elias Parry. Both lived there for some years. Nothing else appeared until 1844, when John Brain, engraver, with Harrison as his 'surveyor', built Nos 11 and 12 at the other end of the south side. No. 12, Brain's own residence, had a 'study' wing at the rear. Harrison also seems to have been responsible for two houses on the east side of the square, for which tenders were published in 1844; these were probably the two at the south corner, Nos 42 and 43. He planned to build more houses on the south side but finally gave up the plots. After this slow start most of the houses followed agreements in 1845 between the New River Company and William Watkins, who was working with James Rhodes. Following Watkins's bankruptcy in 1847 Rhodes quickly saw the project through with other builders, also erecting six further houses in Holford Place in 1848–9. (fn. 47)

The architecture of the square (Ils 298, 299) was conventional for its date, still essentially plain but with stucco decoration to some windows on the first floor, flat heads to all the ground-floor openings, and oblong fanlights over the doors. On the east and west sides the houses were grouped behind palace fronts—a significant departure from usual practice on the estate— with pediments at the slightly projecting ends and centres. The flanks of the end houses, too, were pedimented. The north side, stepping down the slope from east to west, lacked the pediments but otherwise matched; the south side was probably similar. As surveyor to the New River Company, W. C. Mylne was, nominally at any rate, responsible for the design of the buildings or at least their elevations: Watkins was specifically required to build on the north side according to Mylne's plans. The designs are suggestive of a hand other than Mylne's, but whether Harrison or anyone else had any input into the overall design is not known.



299. Holford Square, east side in 1939, with Finsbury Council public bowling green in square. *Demolished*

Two houses were subsequently built on spare ground at either end of the square, on the north side, where the possibility of laying out link streets to Penton Rise and Pentonville Road was pre-empted by earlier development on the Penton estate. The first was Holford Villa of 1866, the builder's own house and in Christopher Hussey's words 'a last survival of Georgian tradition into the midVictorian jungle'. (fn. 48) It was built by John Dore, who moved there from his house next door at the top of the west side. The second, at the north-east corner, was a vicarage for St Philip's, Granville Square. Firmly in the Victorian manner, this was built in 1870 by Dove brothers, to designs by the architect R. J. Withers (Ill. 298). (fn. 49) In 1937, after the closure of St Philip's, it was turned into flats by the New River Company. (fn. 50)

The central garden, laid out with trees, lawns and flower-beds, was managed by a committee of householders until the expiry of the original ground leases in 1932. It was then acquired by Finsbury Borough Council and laid out as a public bowling green in 1934. (fn. 51)

In its social character, Holford Square underwent the decline from early prosperity common to so much of the New River estate. A number of early and mid-Victorian residents were involved in illustration, engraving and allied crafts: the engraver John Brain (see above); Charles Cheffins, lithographer; William Pope, engraver; Ebenezer Landells, artist and wood engraver; George Belton Moore, artist; Howard Dudley, wood-engraver and illustrator; George Welland, map engraver. (fn. 52) The watch trade was also represented. Among other early residents were Herbert Spencer, in 1847, who moved here (to No. 42) as an unsettled young radical, yet to emerge as a social philosopher, and William Biggar, editor of the *Railway Times*, recorded here in the 1851 Census. (fn. 53) The mid-Victorian character was mixedly middle-class, with households typically headed by commercial clerks, tradesmen, or professionals. The architect Francis Cranmer Penrose, Surveyor of the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral since 1852, was living at No. 13 in the early 1860s.

In the early twentieth century Lenin found a temporary home among the lodgings in the square. A later transient was the anti-imperialist historian, Thomas Lionel Hodgkin, who lodged here as a young man in 1936, when he joined the Communist Party. (fn. 54) The square was by this time quite déclassé, a distinctly poor address.

Lenin and the Lenin memorials

In 1902 Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) and his wife, Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya, came to London, aiming to evade persecution, to publish *Iskra*, the Russian Marxist newspaper. They stayed in a two-room first-floor flat at No. 30 Holford Square from April 1902 to May 1903. Two years later they returned to the area to lodge at No. 16 Percy Circus, from 25 April to 10 May 1905, when Lenin was one of 38 delegates to the Third Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party, held by the Bolsheviks, 'mostly in the backroom of some pub or restaurant', as he later recalled, to hammer out a strategy for the Russian revolution of that year. Other delegates were put up at Nos 9 and 23 Percy Circus. (fn. 55)

Thirty-seven eventful years later Lenin's residence at No. 30 Holford Square was commemorated by a London County Council tablet (not a blue plaque) and a freestanding borough council monument incorporating a portrait bust. The Finsbury Communist Party first proposed a plaque to Lenin in 1939, but the LCC rejected the suggestion as he would not qualify for a blue plaque until 1944, twenty years after his death. Following the Soviet Union's entry into the war in 1941 Alderman Harold Riley and the Finsbury Anglo-Soviet Committee revived the idea, with support from Ivan Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador to Britain. In the new political climate the 20-year rule was overlooked. Unveiled in March 1942,

the tablet was placed in a section of rusticated ground-floor wall, all that remained of the recently bombed house at No. 30 (Ill. 300). Maisky stated, wrongly and perhaps opportunistically, that Lenin had stayed on the ground floor, but historical accuracy was of secondary importance to his main theme, that the ceremony 'now would have in it a certain dramatic appeal to public opinion in this country and in mine'. (fn. 56)



300. Unveiling of London County Council tablet, March 1942, commemorating Lenin's residence at No. 30 Holford Square in 1902–3. Ivan Maisky, Soviet Ambassador, at the microphone

Riley and Finsbury Borough Council had wanted something more permanent, and so commissioned Berthold Lubetkin to design the portrait-bust monument. Unveiled a month later, on Lenin's birthday, 22 April, this stood opposite the remains of No. 30 in a gap in the square's railings (Ill. 301). It was constructed of concrete, marble and granite, with a coloured-glass panel to bathe the head of Lenin in red light, and a broken chain at its base. Within a year the bust had to be replaced, having been defaced by fascist protesters. A police guard was mounted, but when Riley lost control of the council in 1946 it was withdrawn and further attacks were made. Holford Square was cleared in 1948, and in 1951, with the Cold War underway, the tablet and bust were removed to Finsbury Town Hall for storage; the casing of the memorial was consigned to oblivion by its designer in the foundations of Bevin Court, centrepiece of the housing project which was to have been named after Lenin. (fn. 57)

Holford Square and Lenin's memorials there had long been erased when, in 1960, the Finsbury Communist Party again approached the LCC, this time suggesting that there should be a blue plaque on No. 16 Percy Circus. This was agreed and the plaque was mounted in 1962, despite much critical press comment and the New River Company's insistence on an indemnity against consequent damage. This memorial too was short-lived. In August 1968 Nos 16–18 were demolished for redevelopment. The Greater London Council, in keeping with its rules, would not allow the plaque to be installed on the new building, and it was given to the mayor of Moscow. However, the developer of the site, Trevor Burfield of Centremoor Ltd, saw to it that a privately made replacement plaque was incorporated into the new hotel's elevation to Percy Circus. Unveiled in August 1972, in the face of anti-Soviet demonstrations, by the Soviet Ambassador, Mikhail Smirnovsky, standing alongside Burfield, it was immediately covered over again for fear of provoking further trouble. (fn. 58)



301. Lenin Memorial, between railings facing No. 30 Holford Square. Designed by Berthold Lubetkin for Finsbury Council, 1942. *Demolished*

Peel Centre

The Peel Centre, standing on the site of Holford Square's west side, was built in 1995–6 to designs by Patrick Minns of Gibberd & Minns Ltd, architects, with Charter Construction plc as the main contractors. A community centre with a sports hall, dining-hall, youth club and meeting-room, it continues the work of the Peel Institute, begun in connection with the Quaker meeting-house in Peel Court (see *Survey of London*, vol. xlvi). Low-slung and brick-faced, the centre has a tripartite layout with a central courtyard. (fn. 59)

Bevin Court, Holford House and Amwell House

The ensemble represented by Bevin Court and its lesser outliers, Holford House and Amwell House, with the space between them (Ills 278, 279), was the last major project masterminded by the architect Berthold Lubetkin for Finsbury Borough Council. Originally known as the Holford Square Housing Scheme, it differs from its predecessors at Spa Green and Priory Green in having been designed and erected in its entirety after the Second World War. Though planning began under the aegis of Tecton, Lubetkin's original practice, the bulk of the work fell to his successor firm of Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin. Construction took place between 1951 and 1957.

During the war, parts of all four sides of Holford Square suffered damage classified as beyond repair, with destruction worst around the south-west corner. Holford Place, the short access road debouching into that corner, was likewise injured, as was the north side of Percy Circus nearby. In 1943 the freeholders, the New River Company, turned their mind to reconstruction. After investigation, the surveyors Vigers & Co. told Finsbury Council in March 1946 that their clients had concluded that the fabric of the square was irreversibly damaged and that the only policy was to 'scrap the old buildings entirely'. Instead, they proposed blocks of flats round the perimeter 'in the Georgian style in keeping with the general character of the neighbourhood'. (fn. 60) Duly in June of that year the surveyors Daniel Watney & Sons working with Eiloart, Inman and Nunn proposed on the company's behalf to build four-storey blocks of flats on the north, east and south sides. The west side meanwhile had been reserved by the London County Council for a possible extension of Vernon Square School. The scheme was summarily rejected by Finsbury Council, which resolved to buy these sites by compulsory purchase and redevelop the square itself. (fn. 61)

A month later Lubetkin came forward with a plan and Tecton were confirmed as architects. The alacrity suggests that their involvement had been in the air. Having designed the Lenin Memorial attached to the railings on the square's north side in 1942 (Ill. 301), Lubetkin had probably expressed interest in its future. With his usual ambition, the initial project he put forward ran to some seven blocks and adumbrated an enlarged area of redevelopment, including the north sides of Percy Circus and of Great Percy Street west of Holford Street. Bullishly, the council applied for these sites too, but was refused them after a public enquiry at which the New River Company contested the whole order. By March 1947 the compulsory purchase area had shrunk back to the square. The council later bought from the company Nos 25–29 Percy Circus, but was unable to secure No. 15 Great Percy Street. This restricted future access to the development along the line of Holford Place. (fn. 62)

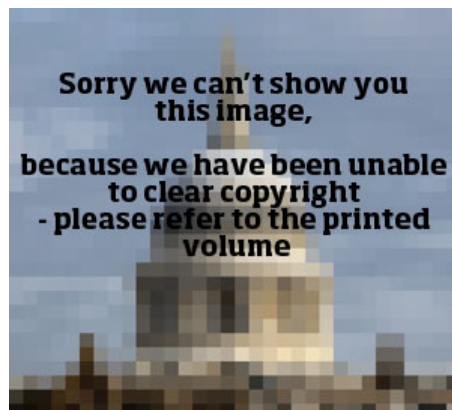
By autumn 1947 Lubetkin was ready to bring forward the matured scheme and full analysis with which Tecton accompanied all their major projects. Their report bestowed faint praise upon the squares of Clerkenwell as 'very characteristic of English town planning' and conveying 'unity of scale and character'. But the architects were against replicating their precise perimeter. A fresh attitude to open space was called for, they argued; density needed to rise to keep down the level of rents, while any north-facing block was bound to be unsatisfactory. (fn. 63)



302. Holford Square redevelopment. Preliminary model with blocks aligned north-south. Tecton, architects, c. 1946



303. Holford Square redevelopment. Portion of model of scheme submitted for tender, looking north; nursery school in front. Tecton, architects, c. 1947–8. Only one of four intended blocks on the south side is shown in this picture, to right



304. Bevin Court, plans of upper floors. Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin, architects, 1951–4

While developing the scheme, the Tecton team had played with several alternatives, varying from eight-storey blocks around the square to Zeilenbau arrangements with blocks in rigid parallel (Ill. 302). (fn. 64) The solution they now promoted (Ill. 303) was geared to the slope of Holford Square, which dropped some fifteen feet from east to west. There were six blocks altogether: one in four linked parts stepping up and back on the north side, a large slab commanding the crown of the site along the east side, and four squarish blocks in parallel on the south side and along Holford Place. The elevations were to follow the lines of Spa Green, with a chequer of recessed and projecting balcony fronts and vivid colour contrasts. All this was to enclose an urban landscape centred on the old open space of the square, where the Lenin Memorial held potential pride of place amidst 'balustrades, retaining walls, steps and other small architectural features' to cope with the contours. (fn. 65) In respecting this space, the architects were probably heeding the restrictions of the London Squares Preservation Act, 1931.

In retrospect, the architects admitted that this scheme, 'conceived in the immediate post-war years when housing standards were more or less fluid', (fn. 66) represented 'a fairly expensive solution'. (fn. 67) The financial crisis of 1947–8 prevented its progress. But despite the insertion of a nursery school or community centre between the blocks on the square's south side, a review of construction methods in the light of difficulties encountered at Spa Green and Priory Green, and a slight increase in the number of flats from 137 to 143, the scheme described above remained the official one. It went to tender early in 1949, with a ceiling price of £292,670. (fn. 68) The costs then portended caused a radical shift of direction, since 'it was clear that minor economies would not meet the case'. (fn. 69) In July the Finsbury Housing Committee asked the architects, by now Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin, to revise the project so as to provide flats at substantially lower rentals.

Their first reaction was to pile all the accommodation into a large centrally sited block, offering 'architectural effect by great masses rather than, as previously, by means of intricate and expensive detail'. (fn. 70) This, however, contravened the Act of 1931 and drew objections from the LCC. In September 1949 Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin came up with the basis of what was built. The bulk of the housing now occupied a 'large 3-winged block' of 112 flats, later raised to 118, with fourteen extra dwellings sited separately and the open space to the west of the main block. At first the LCC's Town Planning Department feared that this would hinder redevelopment of the adjoining areas, but the architects managed to persuade them of the new layout's merits. (fn. 71) The full scheme received outline approval from Finsbury in January 1950 and was worked up during the course of that year.

Bevin Court. Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin, architects, 1951–4



305. Garden (west) front in 2006



306. Mural in lobby, with emblems of Finsbury Council. Peter Yates, artist, c. 1954



307. Entrance (south-east) front in 2006



308. Entrance porch in 2007.



309. Rear (north-east) front in 2007 showing galleries to flats

The revised concept depended for both blocks on a repetitive bay-module of 10 ft 3in. throughout, permitting the possibility of prefabrication. To avoid monotony, explained the architects, the windows 'are grouped in couples with the solid spaces between filled in with precast concrete elements of standard size, whilst the horizontal bands on the elevation are obtained by carrying the floor slabs out to the surface of the wall and facing them with precast concrete units'. (fn. 72) In the Y-shaped block—the future Bevin Court—they economized by focusing on a single grand staircase hall with two lifts, from which tenants reached their flats along galleries (Ill. 304). To compensate for this mode of access ('not a popular solution'), (fn. 73) all living-rooms and bedrooms faced away from the common galleries. The south-western wing, containing mostly maisonettes, was separately planned, while the small independent block at the end of Holford Place was likewise devoted to maisonettes.

As for the former square, the LCC accepted its division into separate portions, as entailed by the siting of the main block, so long as it remained a public open space. The architects explained the change as one from space 'as a concrete volume inscribed within the surrounding buildings', to 'a system of air-reservoirs contained between points of emphasis'. (fn. 74) Holford Place now shrank to a footpath, so that vehicle access had to be from Holford Street or Cruikshank Street alone.

This scheme went out to tender in autumn 1950. After some economies Tersons began work on the basis of a reduced sum of £212,041 the following spring. (fn. 75) The choice of contractor was bound up with the engineering arrangements and structural system. Hitherto Lubetkin had regularly worked with Ove Arup and the specialist concrete contractors, J. L. Kier. But frictions and differences had arisen recently at Spa Green and Priory Green, some personal, some due to the novelty of the box-frame structural system (see page 102). The architects therefore argued for a construction process undertaken by a single contractor rather than a general builder with a concrete subcontractor, claiming that this suited post-war conditions and avoided duplication on site. The firms tendering were asked to submit separate bids for framed construction, both *in situ* and prefabricated, as well as for cross-wall and slab. (fn. 76) In the event, prefabricating any more than the cladding proved too costly, so the cross-wall option offered by Tersons was chosen. Working out Bevin House's structure took place between Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin and Tersons' consulting engineers, J. H. Coombs & Partners. Absalom Green was the job architect for the scheme, as he had been at Priory Green.



310. Holford House, view from Great Percy Street. Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin, architects, 1951–4

Shortages of supplies and unreliable deliveries, particularly of steel and cladding panels, hampered the contract. Atlas Stone, for instance, agreed to supply the concrete cladding but withdrew in May 1952 'on the ground of more urgent defence orders'. This was serious, since on the end walls the cladding was to act as permanent shuttering for the structure. An alternative supplier, F. Bradford & Co., could supply only rough-faced cladding which, the architects thought, 'could not fail to give a somewhat drab effect'. (fn. 77) Permission was therefore given to add a special white aggregate of Hopton Wood stone chippings to Bradford's panels on four of the six elevations of the Y-shaped block, in distinction to the exposed ballast used on the end walls and gallery sides. Now that most of the concrete has been painted over, these contrasts cannot be seen.

Show flats were ready by the summer of 1953, and the name Bevin House, in memory of the trade unionist and statesman Ernest Bevin, was allotted to the main block that autumn. When the Lenin Memorial was removed from Holford Square in 1951, the architects and many socialists had assumed that the building would be called after Lenin, and a place for it next to the entrance had been reserved. But as Communist support dwindled locally and nationally, Finsbury's ruling Labour group deemed this impolitic. According to Francis Skinner, 'when it came to redesigning the sign over the entry porch, we only had to change two letters'. (fn. 78) At the same time the small maisonette block took the name Holford House. At an opening ceremony held on 24 April 1954, Dame Florence Bevin unveiled a bust and tablet; Arthur Deakin, the anticommunist general secretary of Bevin's former powerbase, the Transport and General Workers Union, also spoke. (fn. 79)

Bevin Court testifies to Berthold Lubetkin's post-war resilience in designing public housing. (fn. 80) Tecton's point of departure for their previous Finsbury estates had been the strict orientation and parallelism of Zeilenbau planning, though they had tried to relieve its rigidity with variation, colour and movement. Much effort had been spent on improving the internal planning and facilities of the flats, and on the construction process. Setbacks in building Spa Green and Priory Green, coupled with the difficulties of the post-war economy and building industry, caused Lubetkin to retrench but not to relinquish his belief in public housing as suitable for monumental expression. Self-sufficient and forcefully geometrical, Bevin Court became the prototype for a new type of multi-storey block which Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin took on in its work for the borough of Bethnal Green in the 1950s. This later idiom of Lubetkin's develops the strong geometrical impulse always evident in his work, stemming from his exposure to Russian Constructivism. For the heavier concrete forms the post-war work of Le Corbusier is sufficient explanation.

With its 120-degree wings and its focus upon the centre, Bevin Court has a strong 'panoptical' flavour (Ills 305, 307). Y-shaped plans can occasionally be found in nineteenth-century prison and hospital plans, and had featured in Lubetkin's early student projects, but so far as is known no housing of this scale had been built in such a form. The scheme predates by some months Zehruss and Breuer's successful competition design for the Y-shaped Unesco secretariat in Paris, to which it bears some formal similarities. Proportionally, the wings dominate the centre. Seven storeys in the south-east, eight on the other two sides, they are some 160 ft long but less than 30 ft deep. On the inner end of each wing, successors to the drying canopies of Spa Green are half-visible on the roof. Liveliness of pattern on the flat fronts of the main elevations is contrived by setting concrete panels against brick spandrels below the windows, and alternating the arrangement of the flats on each floor. Now that most of the concrete on Bevin Court has been painted over, the texture, colour and articulation of the panels, each made up of small units, have largely been lost. The access balconies are gathered on the northeast flank, which forms a true 'back' to the building (Ill. 309). Here plain brick fronts are screened by concrete cantilevered balconies whose uprights once again alternate in position on each storey.

The tour de force at Bevin Court is the sequence of main hall and central staircase, still publicly visible at the time of writing. From a projecting concrete porch, heftily modelled and lit from a fanlight under an oversailing reverse-pitch roof (Ill. 308), the visitor enters a truncated drum, expressed externally in brickwork. Set back within one side of the curve, in space originally meant for a porter's lodge, is a Guernica-style mural in primary colours by Peter Yates, who had been an assistant with Lubetkin at Peterlee; it depicts emblems

connected with Finsbury's history and heraldry (Ill. 306). The exact date of its appearance seems unrecorded, but it was not remarked on at the time of the opening. Geometry and scale expand as the visitor moves into the space at the heart of the building. This is an equilateral triangle in plan, cut off at the corners so as to form a hexagon, with open balconies on the short sides of the upper storeys. Two lifts and the common rubbish chutes also share the edges of this space. In its centre, within a circular well twenty feet in diameter, is inscribed the staircase (Ills 311–13). Replicating the building in plan-form, it consists of a sequence of short flights at 120-degree angles with triangular, island-like landings halfway between the floors, poised on a single central pillar. The flights always turn to the right from the half-landing, then take a dog-leg from the floor above up to the next half-landing. The main materials of the staircase and its drum are concrete, with steel rails and a mahogany handrail. Though simple in conception, it has great spatial dynamism. Such communal stairs were further explored in Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin's late work for Bethnal Green, if never with the same force as at Bevin Court.



311. Bevin Court staircase, during construction, c. 1952



312. Bevin Court, base of stair in 2007

Holford House (Ill. 310), visually quite separate at the join between Percy Circus and Great Percy Street, has none of the drama of Bevin Court. It is a plain four-storey maisonette block with the south end cranked back towards Great Percy Street from the former line of Holford Place. The language is the same as that of the larger block, but the use of concrete and brick for the facing and spandrel panels is inverted. Here the original concrete surfaces remain unpainted.



313. Bevin Court staircase in 2004

The environs of Bevin Court are the only place where the landscaping still bears traces of Lubetkin's intentions for his Finsbury estates. The formal approach from Holford Street takes the form of a simple circle within lawns, dignified and animated by the descending contours. The north-east or back side was reserved largely for children's play and has now been much altered. To the west, a sinuous ramp with dwarf walls partly of concrete and partly of cast-iron trellis takes residents down to the main area destined for garden use. A boundary fence now cuts off Bevin Court from the smaller garden of Holford House, and the pathways have correspondingly changed.

One later addition was made to this scheme. That is Amwell House, the two-storey block at the south-east angle of Cruikshank Street and Holford Street. A building of twelve small flats with bed-sitting rooms, it was allotted to Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin by Finsbury Council in 1956 and built in 1957–8 by James Webb & Son. (fn. 81) It is remarkable only for its run of west-facing bay windows, otherwise untypical of the architects.

Footnotes

1. LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/7–9: Cromwell, p.325
2. Carl Voelker, *Professor Voelker's Gymnasium*, 1825: William Hone, *The Every-Day Book*, vol.i, 1826, pp.658–62; vol.ii, 1827, pp.327–9; Cromwell, pp.325–7; Pinks, p.572: John Goulston, 'The London Gymnastic Institute', in *Sports History*, vol. vi, 1985, pp. 11–16: W. H. G. Armytage, 'John Borthwick Gilchrist: a pioneer of gymnastics', in *British Medical Journal*, 8 Aug 1959, pp. 150–1: Mary Cosh, *The squares of Islington Part I: Finsbury and Clerkenwell*, 1990, pp. 71–2
3. This account is based largely on LMA, Acc/2558/ NR/1/9–19; HFCS/115,116: RB
4. *Architect & Building News*, 5 May 1933, supplement
5. POD: OS
6. LMA, Acc/1953/C/849: MDR
7. *Contract Journal*, 27 Oct 1948
8. GA, D3549, 38/6/2, pt 2: LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/9, p. 129
9. RB
10. GA, D3549, 38/6/2, pt 5; 38/6/9
11. MDR 1830/4/475; 1830/6/595; 1831/1/344; 1835/2/ 560: GA, D3549, 38/4/7
12. MDR 1830/6/595: RB
13. MDR 1829/5/268; 1828/9/102; 1828/10/699; 1829/7/ 23,177,452,710; 1831/4/116: LMA, MDR/MB/4921: GA, D3549, 38/6/2, pts 5, 6
14. GA, D3549, 38/6/9
15. RB
16. LMA, HFCS/99/13
17. John Weale, *Studies and Examples of the Modern School of English Architecture, The Travellers' Club House*, by Charles Barry, architect, 1839
18. Draper's Company Archives, Lonsdale Square, lease of 12 April 1839 and misc. correspondence
19. John Weale, *Examples for Builders, Carpenters and Joiners, etc*, 1857, plate xxxv
20. BLPES, Booth survey notebooks, B353, p.181
21. DSR: information kindly supplied by David John
22. LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/14, p.454
23. LMA, Acc/1953/C/869,902,925–30
24. LMA, Acc/1953/C/925–6
25. DSR: ILHC, cuttings

26. LMA, Acc/1953/C/744,892,927–9
 27. BLPES, Booth survey notebooks, B353, p.179
 28. Census: DSR: *POD*
 29. *Country Life*, 28 Jan 1939, p.93
 30. Thames Water, Abbey Mills, New River Company Plans, unnumbered, 14 Jan 1805 and no.58, c. 1818
 31. *Survey of London*, vol.xxvi, 1956, pp.170–1
 32. LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/14, pp.411, 422, 440, 446; HFCS/99/36: Draper's Company Archives, Lonsdale Square correspondence
 33. This account of development is based largely on LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/14–21: RB
 34. LMA, Acc/1953/C/919–22: DSR
 35. LMA, Acc/1953; Acc/2558: MDR: DSR: RB
 36. LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/15, p.218
 37. DSR: Census: *Official Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue of the Great Exhibition, 1851*, p.842
 38. DSR: Census
 39. J. Maclaren Cobban, *A Reverend Gentleman*, 1891
 40. ILHC, cuttings: EH, Blue Plaques file 690
 41. Information supplied by Try Homes Ltd: *The Times*, 3 May 2000, p.26: *Property People*, 30 June 2005, p.6
 42. LMA, Acc/2558/NR/1/9,13–16; Acc/1953/C/858; HFCS/115/38,207: DSR
 43. TNA, ED 21/11431: LMA, LCC Education Committee Mins, 20 March 1907, p.786
 44. DSR
 45. LMA, Acc/1953/C/751,805,881,994,1107,1109,1120–1, 1127,1150: DSR: *POD*: IBC
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 48. *Country Life*, 28 Jan 1939, p.93
 49. David Braithwaite, *Building in the Blood: The Story of Dove Brothers of Islington 1781–1981*, 1981, p.117
 50. LMA, GLC/AR/BR/22/ES/110/597
 51. *Report of the Royal Commission on London Squares*, 1928, p.69: Cosh, p.52
 52. *POD*: Census: *ODNB*
 53. Cosh, p.52: Herbert Spencer, *An Autobiography*, vol.1, p.320: Census: Frederick Boase, *Modern English Biography*, 1965 edn
 54. *ODNB*
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 56. EH, Blue Plaques file 690, Ivan Maisky to Charles Ammon (LCC), 25 Feb 1942
 57. John Allan, *Berthold Lubetkin: Architecture and the tradition of progress*, 1992, pp.415–18: ILHC, cuttings
 58. EH, Blue Plaques file 690: *Daily Telegraph*, 17 May 1961: *Islington Gazette*, 1 Sept 1972: ILHC, cuttings
 59. IBC
 60. BAL Archives, LUB/2/7; ILHC, FBC Mins, 9 April 1946
 61. FBC Mins, 11 June 1946
 62. *Ibid*, July 1946–May 1947
 63. *Ibid*, 13 Nov 1947
 64. *Architectural Review*, June 1952, pp.403–5
 65. FBC Mins, 9 Jan 1950
 66. *Architectural Review*, June 1952, p.404
 67. FBC Mins, 9 Jan 1950
 68. *Ibid*, 9 March, 6 July, 6 Dec 1948
 69. *Ibid*, 9 Jan 1950
 70. *Ibid*
 71. *Ibid*, 12 Sept 1949
 72. *Ibid*, 9 Jan 1950
 73. *Ibid*
 74. *Architectural Review*, June 1952, p.406
 75. FBC Mins, 23 Nov 1950, 10 April 1951
 76. *Ibid*, 23 Nov 1950
 77. *Ibid*, 13 May 1952
 78. Allan, p.418
 79. ILHC, cuttings L3.151, Order of Proceedings, opening of Bevin Court
 80. For assessments of Bevin Court, see *Architectural Review*, June 1952, pp.403–6; Feb 1955, pp. 88–93: Allan, pp.415–27,596
 81. FBC Mins, Feb 1956–May 1958



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CITATION:

Oleg Kerziouk. (Oct. 05, 2015). I beg to apply for a ticket: Lenin (alias Jacob Richter) at the British Library. British Library.

Posted by Oleg-Kerziouk

05 OCTOBER 2015

I beg to apply for a ticket: Lenin [pseudonym Jacob Richter] at the British Library

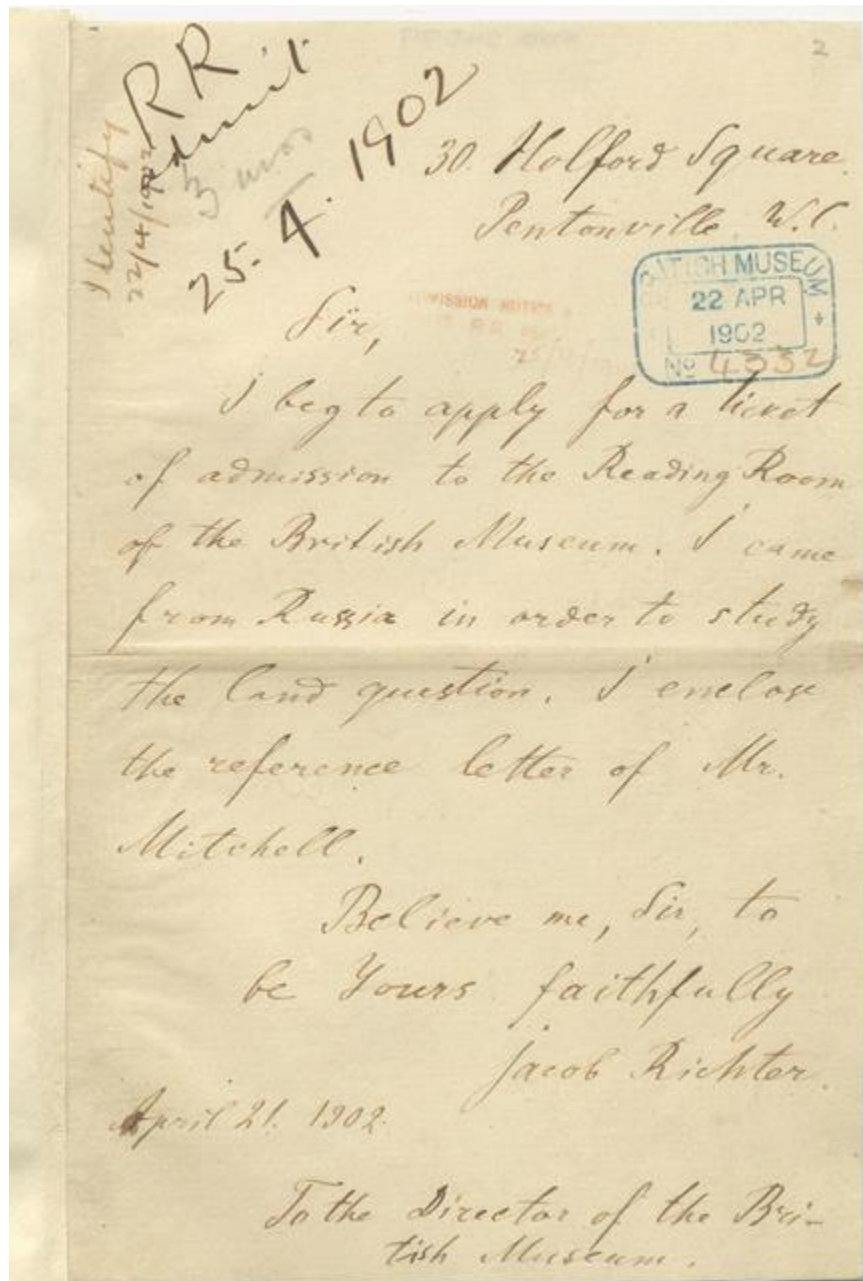
The founder of the world's first socialist state, Vladimir Il'ich Lenin, visited London six times between 1902 and 1911, and on at least five of these occasions found the time to call into the British Museum whose Library collections were in his view unparalleled. At the time of his 1907 visit he said:

It is a remarkable institution, especially that exceptional reference section. Ask them any question, and in the very shortest space of time they'll tell you where to look to find the material that interests you. ... Let me tell you, there is no better library than the British Museum. Here there are fewer gaps in the collections than in any other library.

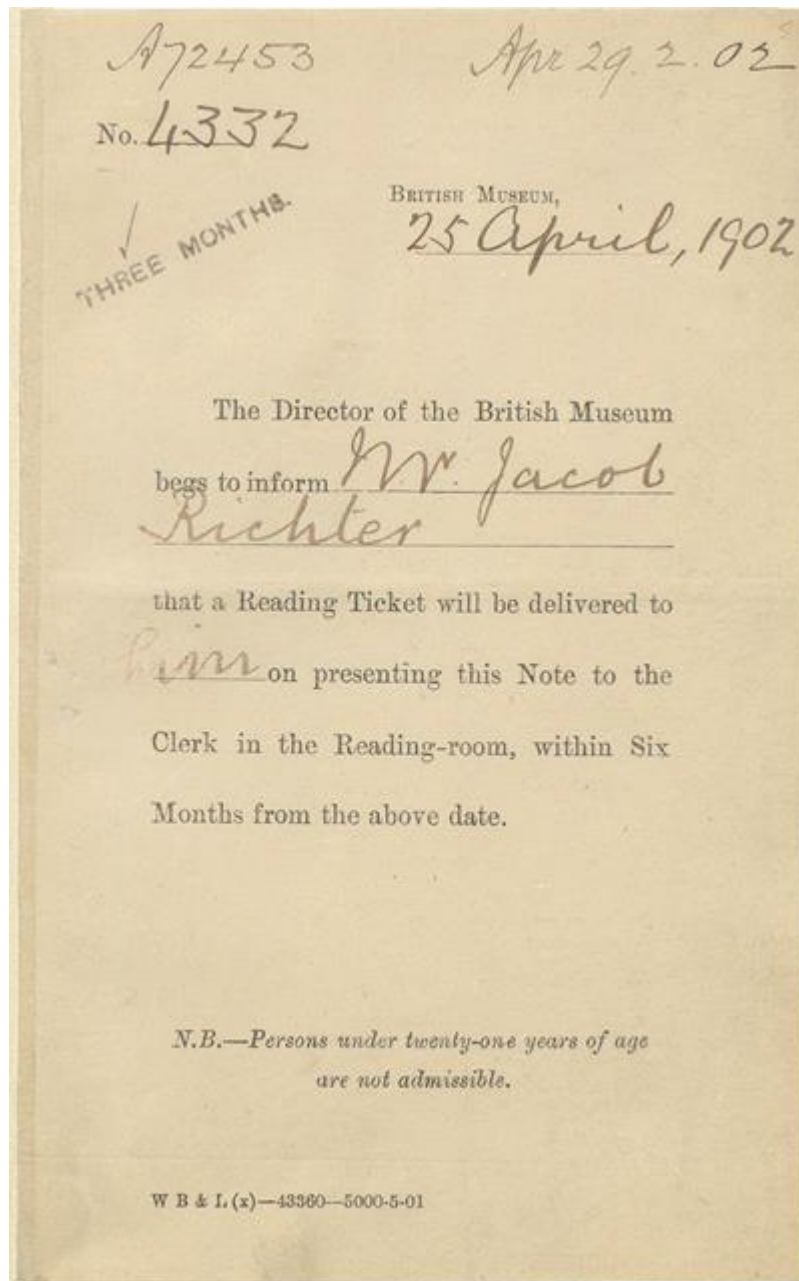
Praise indeed from a man who was already well acquainted with many of the major libraries of Europe and Russia.

His attachment to the Library dates from 29 April 1902, when he first entered the [Round Reading Room](#) to commence his studies. He had arrived in London with his wife, [Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaja](#), earlier that month in order to set up publication of *Iskra*, the newspaper of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP). The Twentieth Century Press had agreed to carry out the printing at 37a Clerkenwell Green, (now the [Marx Memorial Library](#)), and soon accommodation was found for the new arrivals not far from there, at 30 Holford Square, Pentonville.

It was from this address that Lenin first wrote to the Director of the British Museum requesting permission to study in the Library. The documents related to this episode are held in the British Library (Add. MS.54579.)



The letter (above), dated 21 April 1902, bears the signature “Jacob Richter”, the pseudonym Lenin had adopted to throw the Tsarist police off his track. The reference required was supplied by the General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, I. H. Mitchell, but this did not satisfy the Admissions Office as Mitchell’s home address could not be found in the London street directories. Lenin wrote again enclosing another recommendation from Mitchell, who this time used the address of his union’s headquarters. The following day Lenin was informed that a Reader’s Ticket would be granted to him, and four days later he signed the Admissions Register and was issued with ticket number A72453 (below).



The ticket was valid for three months only, but the period was extended, first by three months, and then by a further six . Finally, on 29 April 1903, exactly one year after entering the Library for the first time, he surrendered his ticket and a few days later left England for France.

In August of the same year he returned for the famous 2nd Party Congress, during which the RSDLP made its historic split into “menshevik” and “bolshevik” factions, but there is no evidence to suggest that Lenin found the time to visit the Museum on this occasion, despite the fact that he said he used the Library whenever he was in London.

However, during the 3rd Party Congress, which again took place in London (from 25 April to 10 May 1905), it is known that he paid a visit to Great Russell Street, and there

copied out extracts from the works of Marx and Engels. Unfortunately, there is no record of this in the Museum archives.

His next visit to London took place in early summer 1907, and from the reminiscences of his colleagues we know that he spent roughly a week in the Library at the beginning of June. The Temporary Admissions Register does mention that a J. P. Richter was admitted in May 1907 (no.3782), but one cannot be sure whether this was Lenin – Richter was not a particularly uncommon name. However, we can be quite sure about the details of his visit the following year. In mid-May 1908 he arrived in London with the express intention of spending a month in the Museum to work on his book, *Materializm i empiriokrititsizm*, and fortunately, his correspondence with the Museum authorities survives in the Library archives.

On 18 May 1908 under his real name, Vladimir Oulianoff, he wrote to the Director of the Museum requesting permission to study in the Library and referring to an earlier donation of two of his books. His recommendation came from a certain J. J. Terrett, an English Social Democrat, but history repeated itself, and just as in 1902, he was refused admission. Two days later he wrote again enclosing a second reference, this time from his old friend, the manager of the Twentieth Century Press, [Harry Quelch](#). This proved sufficient, and as in 1902, he immediately received instructions to call into the Library to collect his Reader's Ticket. On 22 May, he signed the Admissions Book, and was issued with a three-month pass, number A88740.

Lenin made use of the Library's collections only once more, during his lecture-tour of 1911, when he visited several European cities to deliver his paper on "[Stolypin and Revolution](#)". The London reading took place on 11 November in the New King's Hall, Commercial Road, Whitechapel, and on the same day the Museum issued a temporary pass to Mr. Vladimir Oulianoff, making a note of his address, 6 Oakley Square, N.W., in their Card Index.

Although Lenin may indeed have had a favourite seat in the Reading Room, neither he nor anyone else has left any indication of which seat that may have been. Several numbers have been suggested, including: G7, H9, R7, R8, and L13. In fact, the latter is probably the most likely, positioned, as it was then in a row opposite the reference works on British and European history, which he doubtless made use of on several occasions.

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Posted by Olga Kerziouk at 10:00 AM

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