

Following hospitalization, he was transferred to San Quentin. In the following issue of their newsletter the ABDC stated what they learned from those rebellions.

We learned that prisoners can unite, spontaneously, against a common enemy when the need arises. Throughout the night we saw prisoners helping other prisoners against the power of the state.... And some prisoners learned the hard way that they must get involved to change the system. At one point the administration ordered all prisoners to return to their cells. Those who tried found the doors locked and the guards refusing to open them. They became victims of the same brutality we all faced. They were forced to face a barrage of tear gas, and the unrelenting hostility of armed sadists. Some have been unable to return to their slumber of non-involvement.

Most of all we learned that we, the prisoners, legally defined slaves of one of the most powerful nations on this planet, can raise our voices and be heard. We learned that a great many people are interested in learning about the injustices done in the name of justice. And we learned we can face the future knowing that our brothers and sisters are willing to fight the battle with us.

(Text from *Tides of Flame* #2, Nov 2011, p.4)

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ANARCHISTS AND REBELLION IN WALLA WALLA STATE PRISON

There is a forgotten history of anarchist rebellion in Washington's Walla Walla Prison. In the late 70s and early 80s, a group of prisoners called the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective (ABDC) was involved in everything from the publication of a newsletter to participating in prison riots, letter writing campaigns to hostage takings, hunger strikes to escape attempts. It included both individualist anarchists and communist anarchists. In the second issue of their publication the ABDC described itself thus:

We are all male prisoners, some of us are white, some black, some red, and some brown. Many of us are gay...



The enemy brothers and sisters is not each other, it is the state.

...
We are into propaganda, agitation, instigation, and study.

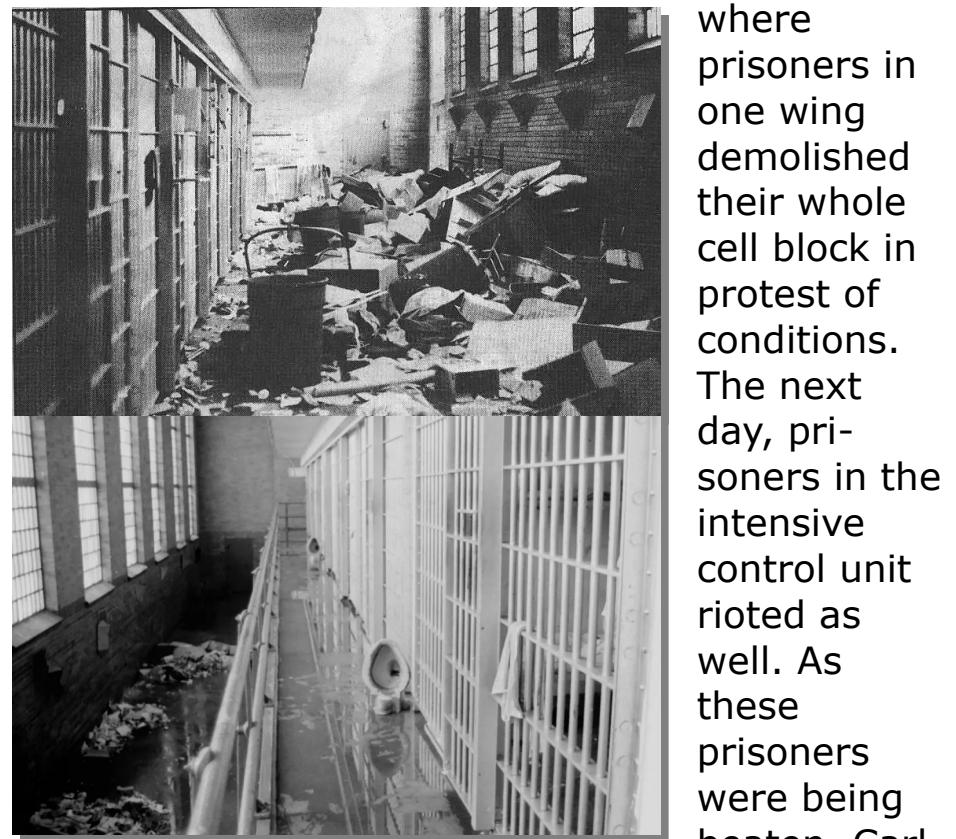
...
Prisoners who do not destroy the prison can never really escape.

The ABDC grew out of two other prisoner groups the Walla Walla brothers and Men against Sexism, both of which included some members of the George Jackson Brigade. The ABDC saw itself as a split from the authoritarian core of the Walla Walla brothers which formed in the isolation unit named "Big Red". Those in this unit united in a struggle against the conditions of isolation and abuse by guards, and were able to mobilize the whole prison in a 47 day work strike that won their 14 demands.

In May 1979, three prisoners all from the segregation unit, one of whom was ABDC member Carl Harp, using knives and fake bombs, took ten people hostage to protest prison conditions. Simultaneously, about 300 prisoners occupied a prison yard. John H. Borsch, a member of ABDC, was shot at close range with a teargas canister when the yard was cleared by guards. The roughly 300 prisoners were herded into another yard where fires were lit, coffee and soup were brewed, and one prisoner decided to destroy every window in one

of the guard towers with rocks. The yard was eventually violently retaken by guards and the three hostage takers were subdued and put back in segregation. Between fourteen and twenty other prisoners were tagged with aggressive involvement and put in segregation with none of their demands met.

In June, a prisoner and a guard were killed in the prison. After more than a month of reprisals throughout June and July, there was a riot



where prisoners in one wing demolished their whole cell block in protest of conditions. The next day, prisoners in the intensive control unit rioted as well. As these prisoners were being beaten, Carl Harp began harassing the guards from his isolation cell and was brutally beaten and raped with a nightstick by guards for his intransigence.