

defence of their commune, but they were outnumbered almost three to one, and, in ten minutes 200 of them had been slaughtered and another 125 wounded as a result of a withering machine-gun fire. Seeing that it was futile to resist further, the village was surrendered and the work of demolition was commenced. Thus was suppressed in blood the commune of Bulhoek.

Oh, what an act of heroism my countrymen — machine-guns against sticks and assegais! Throw up your hats ye freedom-loving Britishers, and sing 'Britons never shall be slaves'. But, listen! The Johannesburg *Star* thinks that 'less expense would have been incurred if one or two bombing aeroplanes had been employed'. Ye Gods, and this in the year of our Lord 1921!

However, this brutal act of savagery is but indicative of the brutal methods of suppression to which the Capitalist class will resort in order to preserve their system intact. If ever proof were required of the cheapness of human life where the interests of private property are concerned, surely the cold-blooded butchery of those 200 natives at Bulhoek affords such proof.

The first practical demonstration of the success of Communism in South Africa has been destroyed, but the IDEA of Communism still remains, and CANNOT BE DESTROYED. The seed of Communism has been sown at Bulhoek, and has aroused the fierce hatred of the master-class of South Africa, who have attempted to kill it with the utmost ferocity.

But, long after the firing of the last shot, and long after the burial of the last corpse, the memory of the Bulhoek Commune will shine in the hearts of the native proletariat of South Africa, oppressed and downtrodden as they are in every corner of this vast continent. This memory will serve as a beacon, lighting the path which they must tread in their emancipation, and it will in some measure help to spur them on to unite with their white fellow-slaves for the destruction of the Capitalist system and the establishment of Communism, looking for inspiration and guidance, not to Jehovah, but in the justice of the workers' cause.

Michael Wade (1941–1990)

The editors regret to announce the death of Mike Wade, after a prolonged illness in Jerusalem at the age of 49. Mike was best known for his books and articles of literary criticism and book reviews. A friend and supporter of *Searchlight South Africa*, he had promised us a contribution, but ill-health stopped him writing this article.

He did not often speak about his political activity in South Africa, but any-one reading his reviews will have noticed that he was one of the few writers who referred knowingly to the National Committee of Liberation, a body involved in sabotage from 1961–64, when many of its leading members were arrested. Mike was a member and escaped arrest only because he was at that time on holiday in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

Those who knew him in the 1950s will remember that he was one of the few student activists who, at the time, condemned Stalinism.