

ABOLISHWAR

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WELCOME HOME!

What wonderful news we got on Thursday 23rd March. Norman Kember and his two friends in Iraq were freed at last. But with the joy there was much grief too as we thought of Tom Fox, murdered in circumstances not yet clear.

Norman has been a peace activist and peace maker for many years. Quiet, modest, intelligent and humorous, at 74 a rather unlikely hostage.

He was freed after four months just when hope was receding. The hostility he received even before he arrived home was quite amazing. Quite falsely it was said that he did not thank those who freed him.

Imprudent was the mildest of the criticisms. I suspect it all arose because of a political and press assumption that military solutions are the only real solutions to problems of violent conflict.

Reconciliation and nonviolent peace building are thought to belong to sermons, not real life. We have clearly got a long way to go yet before our culture of war turns to a culture of peace.

Bruce Kent

MEMBERS!

Do you remember to renew your membership each year? Membership is due for renewal each November. If you think you are behind, can you please RENEW NOW! Can you do it by standing order so that you don't have to think about it? You can download a standing order form from our website: -

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/bank.shtml>

Just print out, fill in and send to MAW!

How about putting on a fund-raising event for us? Our membership fees are fairly low and what we do (including producing this newsletter) makes demands on our funds. Contact our Membership Secretary now.

Letter from the Chair

Writing this, I feel a little that it is in-between times with projects coming to an end and others just beginning. It has also been a bitter-sweet time because the peace movement has lost two of its most committed stalwarts, Sidney Hinkes who was, among many other things, Chair of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, and Harry Mister, founder and guiding light of the Houseman's Bookshop and the Peace News 'empire'. I shall personally miss their friendship and advice.

Then, of course, we thank God for the homecoming of Norman Kember, although this is tinged by the tragic death of one of his companions, Tom Fox. I am sure Norman will use his recent experience to inspire future peacemakers. He has asked me to thank all those who sent messages of support and worked so hard to maintain the media pressure for his release. Our vice-president, Bruce Kent played a crucial role in this.

We are starting three new projects (see p. 2) two of which, a drama project and a new music/poetry CD, are consistent with our aim to use the arts in our campaigning and educational work. The third project sets out to bring together in one publication and map, all the key places in the British Isles concerned with peacemaking and the abolition of war. We need assistance with all three projects so please contact the appropriate person if you would like to help in whatever capacity you feel able.

It is also our policy to visit the wider reaches of the UK and a trip was made earlier this year to Northern Ireland (see p. 6).

I am also planning to spend two weeks in April/May in Geneva to build firmer links with the International Peace Bureau and to discuss some collaborative projects. MAW is a national organisation but we believe that the realisation of our vision requires global reach. In this respect we were moved by the recent article by the US historian and playwright Howard Zinn, where he argues for the worldwide campaign to enlist tens of millions of people in a movement for the renunciation of war, now being planned by a group of internationally known figures. We have contacted him offering our support and also referring him to the IPB. If anyone would like to read Zinn's article please let me know.

Our work in schools continues with visits and the promotion of the War No More DVD which is now being marketed through Kevin Mayhew Ltd with approaching 500 copies sold.

A valuable event recently was the conference for teachers and educationalists held in London on 11th March (see p. 3 for details). This was organised by the Peace Education Network (PEN) of which MAW is a member. PEN has also just produced a curriculum document entitled Education For Peace: a guide. It is available on www.peaceeducation.org.uk, or by contacting MAW. You might like to send it to your local schools.

Finally, some of you will have seen our new-look membership leaflet 'War - can we live without it?' This has been well received and if you would like copies to send around please let us know.

Tony Kempster

Use the new phone number!

The Movement for the Abolition of War

11 Venetia Road LONDON N4 1EJ Tel: 01908 511948 www.abolishwar.org.uk

Looking Ahead



Three
Exciting
New



Projects
For The
Future



MAW ON THE STAGE

Acting on a suggestion from Ian Flintoff at the AGM, work has now started on putting together an anti-war play. Although we are aiming high - a Sunday night charity performance or two at a London theatre, the play will be written in a way that will allow for easy performance by schools, groups and amateurs; it will also be easy to use the mini plays for activities such as street theatre or as a base for debates. Funding is now being sought, to help us make this project happen.

Ian will oversee the project and direct it. He is hoping to set up a link with a drama school to provide a pool of *young* theatrical talent - hopefully this is a project that will attract the younger generation and get more of them fully involved in working for peace.

The structure and some of the script is taken from Shakespeare's Henry V, with mini plays forming scenes between those famous 'Once more unto the breach, dear friends' speeches from Henry. The mini plays look at conflict past, present and future, and how it has been, and could be, dealt with. The aim is not to preach at the audience but to show them there is a choice.

We have just had our second meeting at the Friends Meeting House in Oxford. 10 people were present, and we read through the script as it stands so far, and talked over ideas for the mini plays. This is very much a group project, and the more we worked together, the more the creative ideas flowed.

Why not take part? Our next meeting is at the Friends Meeting House, S. Giles, Oxford, 10.30 to 1, on Saturday May 6th. We need - organisers, writers, actors, musicians, people to help with scenery and costumes. If you are interested in any aspect of drama/performance, and live within 100 miles of London, get in touch with Tony Kempster on 01908 511948 or email Tony.Kempster@abolishwar.org.uk

A NEW CD

Following the success of the CD *Sing The Music of Healing* work has now started on producing a second album of peace songs. As before, the main people behind this project are Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster. They are looking for musicians and singers who would like take part. Contact Sue Gilmurray at 1, Wilford Drive, Ely CB6 1TL 01353 668495 s.m.gilmurray@anglia.ac.uk.

MAPPING PEACE

After talking about it several times in committee, we are finally going ahead - MAW has decided to produce a peace map of the British Isles. It's a huge project but a worthwhile one, and will be a valuable resource for future peacemakers. The finished product will probably appear in several formats - as a wall map suitable for schools, tourist information offices and the like; in book form as a gazetteer, with small maps for each area; and on the web.

Can you help? As well as reminding all your peace contacts about it, can you provide information? We need details about sites such as birthplaces of well known (and lesser known) peace activists, sites of peace actions and events, peace gardens, statues, plaques and other commemorative objects. Clear descriptions of the location, preferably with an Ordnance Survey map reference number, are essential. If you can provide good photos as well, that's even better (all photos on CD please). To make it easier for you to fill in the details we need, we can send you an easy-to-fill-in form.

Do you know of any local peace maps or peace trail leaflets that would be useful? Can you provide contacts for us to follow up? Any and all information will be welcome. Send it to the editor by post to: 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset, DT2 7BT, or email Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk

PEACE PEOPLE

Bertha von Suttner and her Legacy



Bertha was born in 1843 and brought up in Moravia, but it was not until she was 40 that she started to dedicate her life to peace. Having served as a governess in the von Suttner household, from which she was

dismissed for falling in love with the youngest son Aurthur, Bertha moved to

Paris, where she became the secretary for Alfred Nobel. He had already become interested in the pacifist movement. After a very brief time with Nobel, Bertha and Arthur secretly married and went to Georgia. After years of struggle they were accepted by the family, and they were already making themselves known in literary circles. Bertha was one of the first to recognise the dangers of exaggerated nationalism and the build-up of armaments, and wrote about this in *The Machine Age* pub. 1889.

Bertha and Arthur went to Paris where they visited Nobel, and from this time Bertha became immersed in the peace movement. She wrote a novel *Lay Down Your Arms*, which described the horrors of war so well the book made a huge impression. By 1905 it had been translated into 12 lan-

guages.

The von Suttners were among those who helped promote the Hague Peace Conference of 1899, and Bertha was the only woman invited to its opening. Despite many disappointments that came from seeing very little action arising out of all the peace movement's hard work, Bertha carried on her work to the end. It was she who finally persuaded Nobel to institute the Peace Prize. In 1905 she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She died in 1914, only 1 week after the assignation of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarjevo. What would she think of the present, with humanity still engaged in wars that she tried so hard to eradicate?

The Life of Bertha von Suttner, available from MAW for £2 inc. p&p. See p. 6

During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.

George Orwell

Conference News

Peace Education Network Learning for Peace Conference

This wonderful conference took place on 11th March at the Friends Meeting House and many thanks to all those who worked hard to organise it. There was an interesting breadth of workshops to attend and plenty of resources to take home.

I attended a morning workshop exploring an Internet based project about identity between English, African and Phillipino children, which is run by Plan International.

In the afternoon I attended a practical skills based session led by an Oxfam curriculum advisor about how conflict is portrayed in the media and how to develop young peoples critical thinking around it. Many thanks to Richard Baker for providing much food for thought and allowing me to take home some of his resources!

But the highlight of the day had to be Izzy Howlett presenting the video she had helped the children of Royal Docks Community School to make about the D.S.E.I. Arms fair, which takes place next to their school. During the ten-minute film we follow the teenagers as they come to understand what is happening in their community and what the consequences can be for communities around the world. The young girl who interviewed the co-ordinator of D.S.E.I. Arms Fair was an inspiration. The film is available in D.V.D. and V.H.S. format from Campaign Against the Arms Trade and is highly recommended!

Luci Carolan

Beyond the Millennium Declaration Embracing democracy and good governance

This Conference took place in Athens from 9th -11th March. It was attended by 75 delegates from 26 countries, at the invitation of the Mayor of Athens and Global Governance Group, among them MAW committee member Vijay Mehta.

The conference had 4 parallel roundtable sessions:

- Development, Democracy, Good Governance: Competing or Complementary Goals?
- The threat of insecurity: Are we meeting the challenge?
- Should the corporation be a social and political actor?
- Are present global institutions still relevant?

The conclusion was the founding of the New School of Athens which is modelled on the old school of Athens, 2000 years ago at

the time of Plato. The goal of this school will provide pragmatic solutions to the present and future threats & challenges facing the world. Vijay submitted a discussion paper, *Revitalising Global Governance and Democracy: for a just, peaceful and sustainable future*.

The full text of this paper can be read on www.vmppeace.org

Useful documents on line

The Legal Framework for Non-Use and Elimination Of Nuclear Weapons, a briefing paper for Greenpeace International, pub.

February, <http://www.lcnp.org/disarmament/Gpeacebrfpaper.pdf>

Come Together Right Now - Organising Stories From a Fading Empire by Bruce Gagnon (co-ordinator Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space) from

<http://www.space4peace.org>

And from PEN: *Education For Peace: a guide* is available on

www.peaceeducation.org.uk

What About Local MAW Groups?

There is a small but steady increase in people taking up membership in MAW. Obviously people are recognising that our aims are not only worth pursuing, but necessary, and they want to be part of the process of getting rid of war. Several peace and anti-war groups are affiliated to MAW but we need to look further ahead. How, as our membership rises, can we be more effective across the whole country? One solution could be the formation of local MAW groups. This would encourage more peace education in local schools, more dialogue with local military establishments, more focussed letter writing to the local press, more raising of awareness about the terrible effects of war and alternative conflict resolution methods. Much of our success in changing minds comes from the one-to-one, personal approach. So how about it, all you MAW people? If you'd like to start a MAW group in your area, then get in touch with MAW and our membership secretary will help others in your area to contact you. Or post your intentions on our website.

Action for UN Renewal presents
The Erskine Childers Memorial Lecture
“The United Nations, Justice and the Rule of Law”
Professor Philippe Sands QC
Friends House, Euston Road, London
Tuesday 6th June, 7.00 - 8.45 pm.
Admission Free



Henry Suss and the Jewish Working-Class of Manchester and Salford

By Dave Chapple

This is Dave's 90th birthday tribute to a remarkable Mancunian. Born in 1915, the son of a Galician Jewish pedlar, Henry became an active socialist against Mosley's Blackshirts during the 1930's, when no less than 34 relatives in Europe were being sent into concentration camps. He has campaigned for social justice and peace all his life. Last seen in Taunton campaigning against Trident in March this year! 216 pages, over 100 photos/illustrations. £10 (waged), £5 (unwaged) from Somerset Socialist Library, 1 Blake Place, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 5AU. Telephone 01278 450562. E-mail: davechapple@btinternet.com

THOMAS PAINE – EMPIRE AND WAR IN THE 21ST. CENTURY

A Pamphlet by Brian Walker

‘My language has always been that of liberty and humanity and I know nothing that so exalts a nation as the union of these two principles, under all circumstances’, - just some of the words of Thomas Paine which you will find in Brian Walker's well constructed pamphlet. The essay is the Eric Paine Memorial Lecture 2005 given by Brian who is a member of the Thomas Paine Society. He connects the ideas of Paine to the 21st century, including how Paine might react to armed conflict in today's world.

Paine is probably best known for his ‘Rights of Man’ published in 1791/2 in Paris. There he defended the Revolution but would not subscribe to the atheism of the revolutionaries, fleeing Paris for America to escape execution.

He would have rejected outright the USA State Department's advice to ignore the United Nations. ‘That idea needs to be blown out of the water’, he might have said, borrowing one of his favourite comments. A modern Paine would not have allowed the illegal use of Abu Graib and Guantanamo prisons to pass by without drawing attention to the offence against natural justice. He would have not accepted the human rights abuses in Kenya in 1953/6 nor those in Ireland between 1969-2004. He would have declared that the refusal of the Americans to allow the Red Cross into Fallujah following the bombing was simply unacceptable to humanity.

Brian Walker demonstrates how Paine's mind would have gripped the challenge of modern war in 21st century. In ‘Rights of Man’, Paine argued for an international confederation of independent and civil societies charged with maintaining and making peaceable the international system itself. ‘That’, says Brian Walker, ‘is today called The United Nations’. The pamphlet is well researched. The references are wide ranging. This little work should be on the shelf of any worker for peace in the world.

Available from the Thomas Paine Society, 43 Eugene Gardens, Nottingham NG23LF.

In War All Damage is Collateral

THE LESSON OF WAR

I now ask myself why, at the age of eighteen, in 1942, I volunteered to enlist in the RAF as a bomber aircrew airgunner?

Teenagers have always been gullible material for wartime recruitment propaganda, especially in relation to the RAF and the false glamour it depicted, of brave young men going to war, killing the enemy and returning as heroes.

I quickly discovered there was no glamour about being committed to carry out thirty bombing operations over enemy territory, and that the chances of not surviving the war, or of being seriously injured, were much more likely than returning as a hero.

Like all teenagers, myself and other aircraft volunteer believed ourselves to be immortal. We all subconsciously believed that others would be killed or injured, but not ourselves.

It was not long before this outlook would change. One soon realised, after watching other aircraft being shot down, that the doomed aircrews in those aircraft also believed that they were immortal. With the true reality of war, and the realisation that one is not special or immortal, fear begins to permeate one's mind, and is then with you on every operation over enemy soil.

The psychological effect of war upon bomber aircrews is still a taboo subject, since the heroism myth of men at war must be maintained. Films about war thrive upon this largely false concept. The aircrews that I knew did not equate with these celluloid heroes; they were ordinary human beings whose sole interest was to survive, and not to be seen as either brave or heroic.

When our bomber aircraft touched down after our thirtieth operation it was, to us, like being reborn. We could shed our fear and had our lives ahead of us.

In our seven months of operational flying we had metamorphosed from innocent teenagers to serious adulthood. We had witnessed the dark side of human nature – but also learnt the lesson everyone must know, which is that war, in all its forms, can only be seen as the ultimate form of madness. *D J Gill*

We only seem to see one kind of damage at a time - perhaps there is no room in our hearts to encompass more. It hurts too much. Yet everything about war is damaging. Over the last 3 years, quite naturally, we have focussed on the damage done to the Iraqi people. We see the pictures of blood among the rubble, the bodies, the grievously wounded children and the grieving relatives. And why is it always shoes that are left behind in the wreckage? Of course we feel sorrow and pity for those people so damaged by war. But it makes it hard to turn around and see the damage suffered by the perpetrators of that violence. Yet if we truly wish to get rid of war, if we really want to educate ourselves out of the culture of war, we must look not just at the harm we cause others but the harm we do ourselves each time we wage war. We must refuse the myth of heroism and sacrifice that politicians use when they try to sell us war.

In the piece above, Dennis writes about the underlying fear that he and his comrades had to live with. All active forces, in Iraq and elsewhere, live with that fear. They come home damaged for life by what they have seen and done. This is the real sacrifice that politicians demand of them, but never recognise. In February I saw a headline in the Independent - *Military under fire for 'abandoning' more than 1000 veterans with mental problems.* Almost 15% of our forces are returning with *serious* psychiatric problems. They come back with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They leave or are discharged from the forces, but they cannot rebuild their lives. They suffer from panic attacks and

nightmares. One ex-soldier was quoted as saying "it is difficult to describe how bad panic attacks can be.... I was a soldier but now I sometimes feel frightened just going shopping." And the MoD either gives people like this too little help or denies the level of damage. Reservists aren't even entitled to the health care that is given to regulars.

When will we learn? After WW1 100,000 soldiers finally got pensions as compensation for shell shock -but not before some had been shot for cowardice. At the start of WW2 a commission tried banning psychiatric labelling and pensions but the problem could not be ignored. Vietnam created even more visible damage. It became clear just how many ex-soldiers committed suicide after experiencing the horror of war. As Terri Judd, writing in the Independent said, "the only real way to prevent PTSD is to not send men and women to war."

Yet the MoD doesn't just evade its responsibility for its people damaged by war. The day after the Independent ran its story, I received a phone call from a man who had been in the Air Force. While serving, though not in combat, he was injured. The medical treatment he received from the RAF was poor. Over 40 years he's had 10 operations, finally going abroad and paying himself for the right treatment. He was awarded a small pension, it was removed, then re-instated. He attended a War Pensions Tribunal, but was not allowed to speak. And so on. It was a long unhappy story, and he's surely not alone in how he's been treated.

Yes, men and women freely sign up to enter the forces. Were they educated in the damage they could suffer, they might think twice. Perhaps this country needs some kind of defensive force, perhaps our soldiers should be used solely for peacekeeping. But we should *not* be committing them to war. If the MoD, the government, the country truly compensated these people for the 'sacrifices' they have made, if all the damage was faced and addressed, if real medical care and counselling were given, if we paid our dues to these people whom the government sends to war 'on our behalf', then there would be one very real result - there would be no money left in the budget; we simply could not afford to go to war. And that is probably one reason why the MoD ignores its responsibilities.

Most often it's people we weep over when the bombs fall., but war touches everything. Sometimes we're affected by the damage to buildings. It hurts to see man's proud handiwork reduced to rubble, the destruction of beauty, or the ruination of a place of meaning or holiness. For all these reasons Iraqis mourned when the mosque in Samarra was attacked. It's painful to see how quickly something that took years of culture to create can be wiped out or made ugly.



I am not alone in campaigning against war because of the environmental damage it creates. Given the noise and violence of war, I think of the animals. How do the dogs and cats, the mules and horses, the cows and sheep and goats and pigs - all those animals that man has made a part of his life - how do they cope with *their* fear and injury? Man chooses to go to war, but the animals don't. I wept when I saw pictures of US forces in Iraq destroying ancient olive groves because 'insurgents might hide among the trees'. Trees that have taken long years in the growing, providing livelihoods for the people that tend them - all gone, all bulldozed into uselessness. Crops get burnt, wells get poisoned, the soil made barren - there is no end to the damage that war brings with it. We can live without tanks and bombs, but not without a future. We can live without hate and propaganda, but not without the earth. And without the damage of war the earth can live. *Editor*

Those who are traumatized by war are not sick. Their feelings are healthy. Those of us who are not traumatized are the ones who need help. Scott Shaeffer-Duffy - Catholic Radical Newspaper

Wars can be prevented just as surely as they can be provoked, and we who fail to prevent them must share in the guilt for the dead. Omar Bradley, US general

AROUND THE COUNTRY

In the West Country -



Bruce, Oliver, Lesley and Gryphon head, Chris Shepperd

Sherborne, Dorset Bruce Kent debated the nuclear deterrent issue with West Dorset MP, Oliver Letwin. This was the first major debate to be held in the newly opened Gryphon School Conference Centre, and was well attended. The debate was organised by Lesley Docksey. Mr Kent proved to have lost none of his debating skill as he put the case for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. However, Mr Letwin believed that 'Britain has a duty to go on being the possessor of a nuclear deterrent'. He added, 'I don't like war. I don't want to fight in wars. But I don't believe if we removed all the armed forces we would increase our chances of peace.' Bruce's reply - 'Following the flag is the greatest cause of war.'

Photo and report - Judy Nash



There is a new organisation, based in Dorchester but operating across the Southwest of England, called **Fairground**. It

is a community co-operative, specialising in organising Green and Peace & Justice Fairs. They plan around 18 Fairs per year. People looking for suitable events to hold their peace stalls at will be warmly welcomed. Fairground also hope to organise conferences and seminars exploring particular issues. Get in touch if you want their help to put on an event near you. Tel: 0845 373 2757 www.fairground.org.uk mail@fairground.org.uk

Somerset Campaign Against Trident Renewal

When Bruce Kent addressed a meeting in Bridgwater he said that if a movement of sufficient strength could be built in the next six months, then there was a real chance of success. Somerset responded, and is revitalising existing Peace Groups, and even re-establishing groups that had folded. Mid-Somerset CND, paid for the printing of a SCATR leaflet, "produced by committee" from all 7 groups, and we are carrying out a programme of leafleting every town in the County. Group members are also responding to the call to support each other's events; when the South Somerset Peace Group hosted Kate Hudson, National CND Chair, ALL the other Somerset groups were represented. It has never been easy, with public transport and other difficulties, to organise radical groups on a Somerset-wide basis, but SCATR has managed it. *Dave Chapple*

Contact: dave@davechapple3.wanadoo.co.uk

Sheffield is busy -

Sheffield CND have a meeting on May 25 at Quaker Meeting House, S James St, Sheffield - 7.30pm with Kate Hudson. Sheffield CAAT(SCAAT) are planning a debate for Tuesday June 6, 7.15 at Quaker Meeting House with 4 speakers on "The Arms trade, Poverty and Development". This is followed by the SCAAT Stop the Arms Trade display in Sheffield City Library from May 27 to June 8, with the Peace in the Park Festival on June 3.

Contact sheffcaat@emailaccount.com

Below: Campaigning in Sheffield some years ago with the message 'Abolish war and replace it with something nice!' MAW couldn't agree more.



In Scotland -

Scottish CND wants you to know about Scotland's Long Walk for Peace. This is going from Faslane to the Scottish Parliament on 14 - 19 September 2006. Treat this as an alternative holiday with a good purpose! Further details are on www.scotland4peace.org

After this, Faslane365 is starting a continuous blockade and asking people to commit to at least one period of 48 hours. Information about this campaign from www.faslane365.org or call 01263 512049

And in Wales -

A quick glance through Heddwch, the newsletter of CND Cymru shows how active Wales is. The main event this spring is the Social Forum Cymru, in Aberystwyth, April 28th - May 1st. This is being organised by the Aberystwyth Peace & Justice Group. On the anti-nuclear front, Wales became Nuclear Free in 1982. A Keep Wales Nuclear Free campaign has now been launched. A petition is available from www.keepwalesnuclearfree.org.uk

Bruce Kent, gave an inspiring talk at a public meeting of more than 100 people in **Penarth, South Glamorgan** on 8th March, on the subject of 'Poverty and War: A Time to End Both'. He outlined the close links between the militarization of Nation States and the severe world poverty with which the Make Poverty History campaign is concerned. He pointed out that the \$1000bn spent on world military preparations each year is four times the cost of meeting all of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals goals for clean water, sanitation, education, basic health care etc. In addition, civil and national wars cause poverty, and undermine development by displacing people and by leaving a legacy of destruction and ongoing problems from landmines to pollution. "If you spend money on guns, you cannot spend it on butter. If you want to make poverty history, you have to make war history" He pointed to ways in which peaceful change can come about, citing the ending of apartheid in South Africa: "We make change happen - we aren't just passengers in a bus". A collection was held, from which MAW benefited.

Philip Kingston

Plea from the editor:

Several readers have commented that the events and news in this newsletter are London-centric. Let's have **YOUR** news. And your adverts.

On a Lighter Note:

Italian elite force invades Sweden by mistake

From Richard Owen in Rome

For most of the armies taking part, it was a routine exercise that involved little more than turning up at the right place.

For Italy's elite mountain infantry regiment, this proved too much. The 116 soldiers from the Alpini unit were due to arrive at Kristiansand in Norway for a Nato exercise.

Nobody had consulted a map, however. Puzzled immigration officers at the airport of Kristianstad in Sweden watched as the troops, in their distinctive Alpine caps decorated with feathers, disembarked some 300 miles from where they should have been.

"It does not seem to have occurred to anyone in the unit that Sweden is not part of Nato," the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera commented. "Kristiansand and Kristianstad may sound remarkably similar, but that

is no excuse for Italy invading Sweden in error." Kristiansand is on the southern Norwegian coast, facing Denmark, while Kristianstad is in southern Sweden, not far from Malmo.

The incident comes at a particularly embarrassing time for the authorities, who are trying to counteract an 'unfair and outdated' image of the Italian military as comically inept.

Defence Ministry officials said the plane had been chartered from a civil airline. The flight had "not followed the usual military procedures." A spokesman for the airline said that as there was also a Kristiansund near Trondheim in central Norway, it was not surprising that the pilot had lost his bearings.

General Anselmo Donnari, the Italian military attaché in Oslo, said that the troops had eventually reached Norway "in good order", and the exercise had started as planned.

The Times 29/05/2000

War is the only game in which both sides lose. *Walter Scott*

MAW visit to Northern Ireland in February

Tony Kempster (MAW chair) visited Northern Ireland on 22-25 February and was joined for part of the visit by MAW vice-chair Christine Titmus to assist with a full programme of talks and media interviews.

The theme of the visit was the reaction of western nations to terrorism and the danger of escalation to war. As Northern Ireland emerges from thirty years of the Troubles, the local organisers thought it valuable to take the opportunity to put some of the issues under the spotlight from a broader MAW perspective.

Talks were given at the Oak Grove Integrated College in Derry – integrated in the sense of being non-sectarian - and at the Irish School of Ecumenics in Belfast (part of Trinity College, Dublin), and we spoke on several radio programmes and did some community TV in Belfast discussing MAW and the vision of an end to all war.

There was also time to do some singing including a live performance on Radio Foyle, and for a tour of some of the areas of Belfast that are still so obviously divided on sectarian lines. Valuable contacts were made with people working for reconciliation in the province and in schools, where our DVD and other educational material were well received. The media contacts have proved particularly valuable leading to two invitations to do telephone interviews on return, related to the release of Norman Kember and other issues.

Our thanks to Roberta Bacic and Rob Fairmichael (Irish Network for Non-violent Action Training and Education) and Clem McCartney who organised the visit and worked us hard. Now to Scotland!

Copies of the papers *War – can we live*

without it? and *'The war on terror' and the Christian just war tradition* given during the visit are on the MAW website or can be obtained by ringing the MAW telephone number.

Tony Kempster

The Challenge of Peacemaking to Citizenship.

A lecture given by Pat Gaffney, at Lancaster University Chaplaincy, on February 8th 2006

Pat Gaffney is one of Pax Christi's dynamic campaigners for peace. She structured her talk around a cluster of principles for active peacemaking, which she offered as a model for all citizens to follow in working to make peace in these times of terrorism and nuclear threat. Three of these principles are:

Education and Skills. The first point of learning and understanding what it means to make proclaim and make peace as citizens is the education we receive – both at school and in the wider community. Sadly the original concept of Citizenship, the outcome of the Crick report that suggested a blueprint for a national curriculum subject in schools, is often lost "at the point of delivery." Ms Gaffney expressed her sadness at a recent quote from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, that stated "...a model of active citizenship is to join the Army." This sound-bite gives us a glaring example of how readily we misinterpret the concept of "peace keeping."

Witness and action. From an audience's point of view, Ms Gaffney's accounts of her experiences and the extent of Pax Christi's peace making campaigns were awe-inspiring. Speaking about Norman Kember and his abduction, Ms Gaffney ventured the phrase "civilian peace force" as a possible new term to describe the role

of peace campaigners such as Mr Kember. **Spirituality.** Ms Gaffney quoted Martin Luther King concerning the third principle of spirituality; "...sometimes you have to create a moral crisis.." in order to *highlight the immoral outcomes of war, kidnapping and terrorism.* Using Norman Kember as a radical example of this, through raising the world's awareness of the "immoral outcomes of war," Ms Gaffney highlighted the other side of the coin. She drew attention to the works of agencies closer to home – those acting outside the international spotlight. This was a reference to a group of people in the audience who told us of their tireless work campaigning for peace for one hour every Monday outside BAE Systems, the Military Aircraft Division in Warton near Preston, over the last 10 years. Despite their diminishing numbers, these campaigners have persisted in their action and each week they give out something like 300 leaflets about their cause for peace. It is only over the last 5 years that they have managed to gain a dialogue about peace with the public in Warton. This raised a further issue concerning the dependence of the North West on jobs within the defence industry. Ms Gaffney went on to say that changes on this count are not easily brought about; after all, people must earn their livings. However, through campaigning for peace at all levels – in local newspapers, through local MP's and in places that are wholly dependent on the defence industry for their economy - we can play our part in smiting the consciences of the public and the government.

Then we might get to the very heart of those mechanisms that could really give peace a chance.

From a report by Christine Hough, Kendal

MAW TO BUY

MAW TO BUY	BOOKLETS	The Hague Appeal '99. 50 Steps on the Way to the Abolition of War	50p
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Postage: - Items marked * postage included. Single sample copies of the others, send SAE. Multiple orders, please add 10% to the total price. Please send order to:
Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, LONDON N4 1EJ

News from Nigeria

November 2005. Another milestone was recorded when University of Peace (UPEACE) in partnership with some cooperating organizations organized a training workshop for youth leaders in the restive oil-rich Niger Delta of Nigeria. The meeting gave birth to a comprehensive directory of youth peace builders across Nigeria.

It also facilitated the establishment of a functional network that will serve as the driving force behind the implementation of collaborative projects in peace building. By creating and promoting a network of peace builders, Nigerian activists, leaders and organizations alike will be empowered as each contributes their expertise and comparative advantage to the network.

Universalist Club, an affiliate of International Society for Universal Dialogue (ISUD), which is part of the peace builders network, is taking the peace message to schools, colleges and tertiary institutions in and around Niger Delta. The Club's message is **DIALOGUE**, which is the universal solution to deadlocks. Non-violent transformation of conflict strategy has been a veritable tool in its peace message against cultism on university campuses, street gangsterism, ethnic conflict and tribalism, environmental and social injustices as well as environmental degradation by multi national organizations operating in that locality.

The culture of peace is being preached and brought to the young at the doorsteps of their schools, as the best alternative in handling injustices being perpetuated by multi-national oil companies involved in drilling and exploration activities.

The restive youths are taught the best alternatives to war and hostage taking as well as the skills of dialogue and negotiation. War is an ill wind! A sinister thing that must be stamped out in our time.

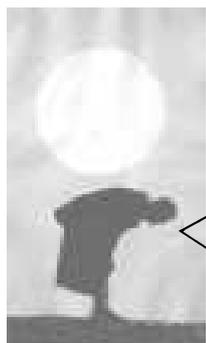
*Eboh Uzoma Kingsley
(Port Harcourt, Nigeria)*

Henry Richard & the 19th Century Peace Activists

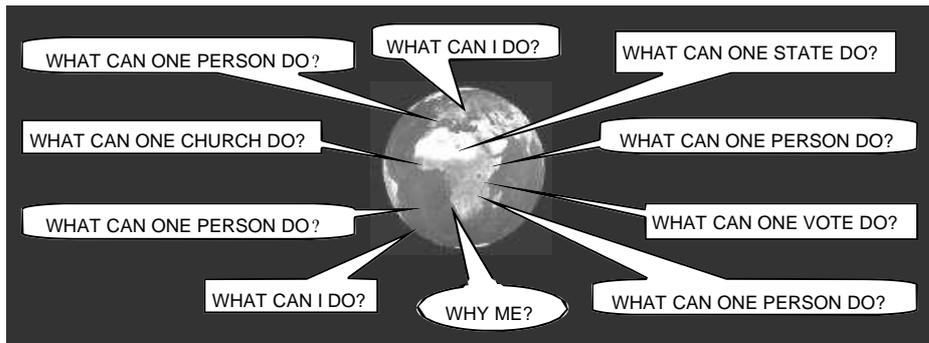
This was the subject of a talk given by Peter van den Dungen from Bradford University at the University of London Union on 4th April. It was inspiring and quite exhausting to hear of the amount of positive work achieved by Richard and his colleagues, both here and on the continent. Inspiring because we owe them so much - in 1872 for instance, for the first time 2 great powers submitted to peaceful arbitration (UK and USA, Alabama Arbitration). In the following year Richard initiated procedures to set up a process of arbitration treaties with other governments. The resolution was carried by 10 votes and supported by a petition of a MILLION signatures. .Could we do as well today? Designed to stop states resorting to war, this idea was introduced by Richard to other governments from Sweden to Italy.

The British Peace Society was the first to be founded, and part of its mission was to help found European societies. After the Peace Conferences in Brussels (1848) and Paris (1849), similar events were regularly held across the continent, many of them instigated by Richard and the British peace movement. From 1873 Richard spoke at yearly association meetings, as International Law was slowly codified. This body eventually became the International Law Society. In 1880 he made a plea in a keynote speech for disarmament. Does all this exhaust you too? Richard was an MP from 1868 until his death 20 years later. He edited the Peace Journal *every month* for 37 years. He travelled widely promoting peace. And he was not alone. Many others worked alongside him to make peace a reality. So why did all this amazing productive work not continue at the same level? From 1889 until 1914 there was a Peace Conference each year. Does the date 1914 ring a bell? And another question - why isn't *this* history taught to every child in the land? Please encourage your local schools to take this up.

Editor



I'D LIKE TO WORK FOR PEACE ON EARTH, LORD, BUT WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?



Please send me further information

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.....

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WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN MAW!

Our aim: to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution, not more conflict. We have the tools, the skills and the laws that we need. We also need you. We work through education and dialogue, both nationally and in our own local communities; ordinary people taking action to realise our goal -

THE ABOLITION OF WAR.

Events Diary

- 26 April WORLDWIDE.** Chernobyl Day. This year marks the 20 year anniversary. Contact your council to ask if they are planning a Civic Event to commemorate the anniversary. www.chernobyl.info Send details of events you are planning to info@rememberchernobyl.org
- 28 - 30 April STOCKPORT.** Alternatives to Violence Project Workshop. Level One www.avpbritain.org.uk
- 28 April - 1 May ABERYSTWYTH.** Social Forum Cymru. www.socialforumcymru.org.uk or call Matt on 07767798601
- 29 April LONDON.** Security, Civil Liberties and Peace. Network for Peace AGM (am) and public meeting (pm) www.networkforpeace.org.uk
- 1 May LONDON.** "Human-Chain around Westminster Anti-Democracy Zone" www.pledgebank.com/protest
- 4 - 7 May ATHENS.** European Social Forum. www.fse-esf.org
- 6 May LONDON.** Power Inquiry Conference. <http://www.powerinquiry.org/conference/index.php>
- 10 May BELFAST.** Should Northern Ireland have a Truth Commission? To book, info@ark.ac.uk or phone 028 7137 5513.
- 15 May EVERYWHERE.** International Conscientious Objector's Day. <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/15May.htm>
- 18 - 21 May PLYMOUTH** Trident Ploughshares Camp
- 23 May ILMINSTER** 7.30 Sam Perlo-Freeman (CAAT) The Arms Trade - A Threat To World Peace. sspg@infoaction.org.uk
- 3 June CAMBRIDGE.** Strawberry Fair 2006. A one day free festival. <http://www.strawberry-fair.org.uk>
- 3 June LONDON** Campaign against Climate Change Conference. info@campaigncc.org . 0207 549 0395
- 17 June BIRMINGHAM.** Pax Christi AGM paxchristi@gn.apc.org
- 17 June LONDON.** 21st Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park. Ring 020 7228 9620 for info.
- 17 - 18 June LEAMINGTON SPA.** Leamington Peace Festival. info@peacefestival.org.uk
- 18 June LONDON.** MANA Concert for Peace Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill 020 8455 1030
- 21-25 June GLASGOW.** 6th CIVICUS World Assembly Registration - "Acting Together For A Just World". www.civicus.org
- 23 - 28 June VANCOUVER, Canada.** World Peace Forum. www.worldpeaceforum.ca
- 4 July FELTWELL, Nr Lakenheath.** Independence from America demo and party , contact Mell Harrison on 01986 892723.
- 4 July MENWITH HILL.** Freedom FROM America. CAAB, <http://www.caab.org.uk>
- 17 - 23 July FARNBOROUGH.** Farnborough International arms fair. www.caat.org.uk
- 21 - 23 July SWANWICK.** 25th Annual RC Justice and Peace Conference 020 7901 4864
- 21 - 23 July SCARBOROUGH.** Anglican Pacifist Fellowship conference www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk
- 29 July - 5 August KETTERING.** Gandhi Foundation Summer School www.gandhifoundation.org
- 2 - 6 August SOMERSET.** Big Green Gathering. <http://www.big-green-gathering.com/index.php?pageid=1>
- 6 August WORLDWIDE.** Hiroshima Day.
- 9 August WORLDWIDE.** Nagasaki Day.
- 16 - 20 August WALES.** Earth First! Summer Gathering. Site to be announced. <http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk>
- 25 - 28 August CHELTENHAM.** Greenbelt Festival. Greenbelt Festivals All Hallows on the Wall 83 London Wall London EC2M 5ND. <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk>
- 26 August - 4 September NORTH OF ENGLAND.** The Camp for Climate Action, North of England www.climatecamp.org.uk
- 14-19 September SCOTLAND** Long Walk for Peace from Faslane to the Scottish Parliament www.scotland4peace.org
- 21 September WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Peace. <http://www.un.org/events/peaceday>
- 29 September LONDON.** MANA Concert for Peace . St James's Church, Piccadilly 020 8455 1030.
- 1st Sunday of every month LONDON** Walk in Peace Clare 020 8755 0353 or beatricemillar@freeuk.com
- 2nd Weekend of every month ALDERMASTON-** Women's Peace Camp, followed by Block the Builders demo on Monday mornings

QUOTES TO QUOTE AT PEOPLE

"First, we are all in the same boat. More than ever before, the human race faces global problems -- from poverty and inequality to nuclear proliferation, from climate change to bird flu, from terrorism to HIV/AIDS, from ethnic cleansing and genocide to trafficking in the lives and bodies of human beings. So it obviously makes sense to come together and work out global solutions.

And secondly, the three freedoms which all human beings crave -- freedom from want, freedom from war or large-scale violence, and freedom from arbitrary or degrading treatment -- are closely interconnected. There is no long-term security without development. There is no development without security. And no society can long remain secure, or prosperous, without respect for human rights and the rule of law." **Kofi Annan**

Keeping war at bay doesn't give you peace. Hostile movements build on a sense of grievance and injustice. Or, if that is putting it too simply, they build on some deeply felt and extreme ideology, which can only be opposed by a better ideology. The real lesson of 1939-45 is that each of us should be working against injustice and repression, working to establish, improve and safeguard human rights, making certain that we don't look too much for ourselves at somebody else's expense - which is of course the most difficult thing of all. **Leonard Cheshire**

We cannot afford a future like our past. To avoid repeating the present debacle, we need more careful politicians, more truthful journalists and more sceptical generals. Kipling wrote of the Boer War that it taught us no end of a lesson. The conflict in Iraq has done the same. The lesson is straightforward: industrial warfare has outlived its usefulness. It simply doesn't work. **Martin Bell**

And Finally - something that appeared among my emails (source unknown).

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad" "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Maw News, please! We want to hear from members around the country, and we want your actions to inspire others. So if you have organised events/actions, or are planning some, and would like to have them reported in the newsletter, then send the details to the editor: - Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT. E-mail: Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk