

HOUSMAN'S BOOKSHOP
5, CALEDONIAN RD. N.1
0.50P

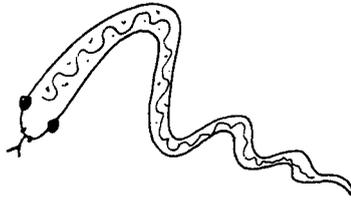


 WOMENS
PEACE
CAMP

GREENHAM COMMON
SPRING 83
/ISSUE

Appendix

Hi everybody!
Thanks very much
for all your support and
encouragement. We thought
you'd want to hear about
we "naughty women" have been up
to and maybe a bit about what
yet to get up to, so here it is!
... with love from the women of
the Women's Peace Camp



Contents

- What's been happening? 3
- November Trials 5
- December 12th 6
- December 13th 8
- January 1st ... Silos 10
- January 17th - Houses
of Parliament 12
- February 7th -
Heseltine's Visit 13
- 'A Snaky Story' 14
- Ssssnakes on the
Seventh of the Second 15
- Snakes and Ladders 20
- Int. ♀ Day of Action 21
- 'The Tyrant' 22
- Maps ... Greenham
... ♀ Prisons 23
- Letter from Comiso 24
- Non-violence (NVDA) 26
- Peace Camps News 28
- Supportive Actions 30
- Future Dates 31

Because of the diverse nature of the Women's Peace Camp and since we are such a mixed bunch of women, [it is very difficult to isolate and identify 'one' policy, 'one' collective philosophy.] Therefore, although the views and experiences expressed by the individual women contributing to this newsletter may be shared by many others, they must each be recognised as one woman's view.

Still, there is one basic principle on which we all sort of agree - the principle of non-violence. More about that later in the newsletter (Ioma says it very powerfully).

Having said all that, I will now attempt to express some of the aims, methods and philosophy behind our actions.

Greenham has become an important emotional focus within the peace movement. For many people the Women's Peace Camp, and our actions at the base, have provided their first sense of personal involvement with stopping cruise. All the actions that have happened at Greenham have grown from women's deep feelings about the base and cruise. Most have not required long or complex planning because they represent a personal and direct emotional response. Even with very large numbers of women involved the actions are still directly personal, which is why the December 12th and 13th events created such a powerful impression. But while large symbolic events can be effective in changing public opinion and exerting political pressure - and also in offering a way into involvement to those who are just starting to develop confidence in their own power to act - we must always be watchful that this doesn't restrict our individual expression of the deep terror we all feel.

That is why the Women's Peace Camp is constantly involved in direct, practical actions to prevent the

physical siting of the missiles ... and the effectiveness of women's initiative and direct actions is continually being proved!

The flexible nature of our plans and our way of working together is by the organic development of ideas into practical, effective actions by groups of committed women whose feelings of personal responsibility for what they do are not restricted by too much structure. The camp's decisions arise fluidly, out of the experience of all the women who identify themselves with the camp - 'Greenham women'.

The Women's Peace Camp is not 'the organiser' of the actions that women are doing at the base and other places. The women at the camp work to reach out to all women to enthuse, provide space, create conditions in which actions can be invented and carried out. Since Dec 12th ever greater numbers of women are becoming involved with the camp, each woman wanting to act on what she personally feels about cruise, the base, herself. This determines the kind of action she takes as an individual and in groups ... and there are as many kinds of action as there are women and their imaginations! We want to involve and encourage all women who are opposed to nuclear weapons to create, arrange and carry out their own local group actions in their own regions, pinpointing their own local installation of the military network in this country. We would be happy to send women from the camp to talk to women's groups about what we are doing and ways of becoming involved.

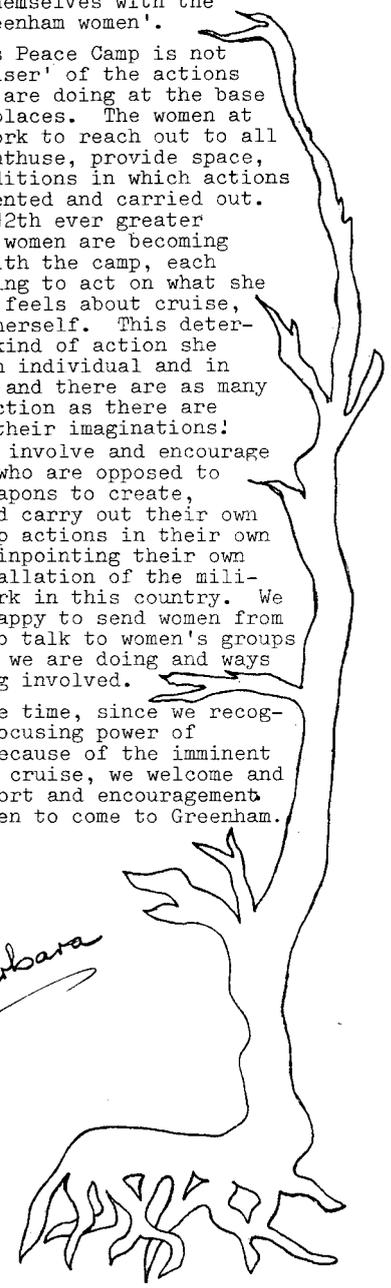
At the same time, since we recognise the focusing power of Greenham because of the imminent arrival of cruise, we welcome and offer support and encouragement to all women to come to Greenham.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MEDIA

The bubble has burst - we are no longer viewed by the authorities as a bunch of deluded 'helpless' women but are increasingly being seen as a committed and determined movement which has profoundly affected a large sector of the public. In consequence, some of the press coverage is turning to the attack, or alternatively just ignoring our protest. An inevitable development, but a sad reflection of the unimportance our society attaches not just to this threat of mass suicide, but the quality of our lives which may be so finally extinguished.

On Monday 7th Feb, 44 more women entered the base at one end and spent over an hour 'snaking' through (see Jayne's and Gill's contributions). This was largely ignored by the media who instead focussed on Heseltine's supposed 'punching' ... 'peace women's fury', etc. The joyfulness, the imagery of snakes shedding their skins to bring new life to a TARMACed runway, snakes insinuating their way into the fortresses of destruction, conquering our fears of 'secretive' military structures (Jan 1st - WOMEN ON TOP OF THE SILOS) these are the images to remember, images of women's strength and determination!

Barbara



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

WELL oooooo comings and goings all the time - growth - friendship - love - learning - upsets - anger - confusion - energy moving - confidence building - trying to sort things out - besides all the day to day happenings these are some dates over the last 18 months.



1981

August 28th - Sept. 5th...

"Women for Life on Earth" march from Cardiff to Greenham Common - 110 miles.

Sept. 5th... Four women chain themselves to the fence at the main entrance demanding a live televised debate between women on the march + M.O.D. representative... on Cruise issue. From this direct action, the Women's Peace Camp naturally developed - tents at first - then caravans and a big structure around a poplar tree... where people met to talk... exchange ideas... express feelings

12th Dec. a march, in the snow, into Newbury to join torch-light procession of Newbury people, on the anniversary of the N.A.T.O. decision to accept U.S. controlled Cruise missiles to Britain and other European countries.

Christmas + New Year ... snowy, cold and beautiful... Then comes 1982

Early Jan... Women prevent work on Sewers going into base, by sitting in front of machinery. (sewers part of Cruise preparation)

Jan 18th... "Keening" outside the House of Commons on the opening of Parliament 1982. Women from Greenham were joined by many other women, who expressed their feelings, warning the politicians to re-think nuclear policy.

Feb. 1st... Women at the camp decide that only women will live there, and men are invited to visit during the day.

March 21st... Celebration of the Spring Equinox. Around 10,000 people go to the base to express their feelings about Cruise Missiles and their desire for a safer nuclear-free future.

March 21/22nd... 24 hour blockade of all gates by about 300 women. 34 arrests at a gap that police opened up for base traffic.

May... First eviction... Newbury District Council take their case, against the camp, to the High Court. Day and night Blockade of the main gate for two weeks until the camp is forcibly removed from Council controlled Common Land. It takes them 9 hours to completely destroy the structure around poplar tree. The tree house made from reeds gathered from the River Kennet is the last to go. Sad in a lot of ways, but the situation was ever changing and so the camp quickly settled down on M.O.T. land nearer the road. 5 arrests this day. 4 women spend a week in prison, unable to agree to be bound over to keep the Peace in the terms of the court.

June 6th... Women from camp speak at big C.N.D. rally in Hyde Park. Inviting women to take part in direct action the next day.

June 7th... Die-in outside the Stock-Exchange. Women block all roads to the building for fifteen minutes during the rush hour. Linking economics to the nuclear situation. All but 5, who were arrested just walked away afterwards. About 80 took part in the action.

June 8th... As Reagan speaks to M.P.s women gather, dressed in black, to keep their warning, as the banshee does. 20 arrested by the S.P.G. (not as bad as it sounds... more boring than anything)

August 6th... 10000 stones are placed on the war memorial in Newbury... to remember the Hirpshima victims.

August 9th... Women go into the base + sit in a circle, to give someone in the base an origami crane (it turned out to be the head of the M.O.D.) expression of their hopes for peace.

August 27th... Women occupy the M.O.D. sentry box at the main gate - sing song answer the phone until they (18) were arrested. ★ ★ ★ ★

Sept. 28th... Second eviction... this time from ministry of transport land. Thousands of rocks are put all over the land where the camp had been... landscaping they said!!! During the eviction around 40 bailiff workmen and 40 police took away the caravans. The 12 women on the camp sang and held hands as the camp was destroyed around them. Later in the day the camp began again on the original piece of council land. A fire was lit, a simple shelter made and.....

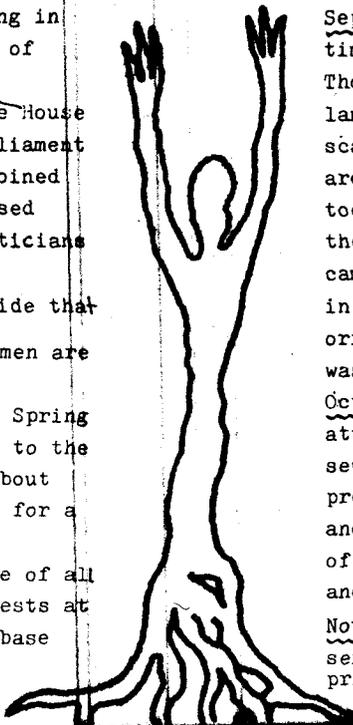
Oct. 3rd... Sewer pipe action - women attempt to prevent work of laying sewer pipes - part of Cruise missile preparation. Webs woven over ditches and women lay down in them and in front of machines until they are dragged away and arrested.

Nov. 15th... Court case in Newbury for sentry box occupation. Women go to prison for 14 days, unable to agree to

OTHER COUNTRIES / WOMEN'S MOVEMENT / PEACE IN FILE OTHER COUNTRIES / G. Britain

(WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP)

★



be bound over to keep the peace in the terms of the court.

Nov. 17th ... Court case for sewer pipe action - again the complaint of the police is Breach of the Peace - again women go to prison for 14 days. There is tremendous support for the women from all over Britain and the world.



Dec. 12th ... Well! At least 30,000 women come to Greenham to make a circle around the 9 mile perimeter fence. Every bit of the fence is decorated with things that meant 'life' for the women - webs woven, pictures and photos hung up - baby clothes and toys tied to fence. In the evening candles lit around the base and gatherings at the different gates.

Dec. 13th ... Blockade of all gates and potential gaps by around 1000 women. Some women roll back a part of the fence and go into the base, plant snowdrops and seeds and make a circle of candles. At the blue gate women are dragged away time and time again to allow work traffic in - police policy was not to arrest but many women were hurt, rough tactics of police.

Christmas ... very busy, many supporters visited.

1983 New Years Day ... at daybreak women climb over the fence using ladders - 44 get on top of the silos, make a big circle and sing and dance for over an hour before they are arrested.



Jan. 17th ... On opening of parliament women lobby M.P.s and 73 women make a circle in the lobby hall, singing songs - they are held for about 3 hours in

Westminster Hall then released.

Jan. 22nd ... 3 women arrested for putting up a tent at the Blue Gate

(entrance for construction works traffic.)

Jan 24th ... 15 women arrested for blockading the Green Gate (other entrance for construction work traffic)

Feb. 7th ... Heseltine visits Newbury - lots of action at the base and Newbury council offices.

Feb. 15 - 16th ... Court case for 44 women from Jan 1st silo action... lots more actions, arrests

Feb. 21st ... Court case for 3 women from Jan. 22nd.

Feb. 28th ... Court case for 15 women from..

.....

and on and on it goes.

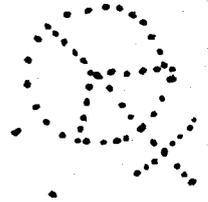
* Feb 22nd - Highcourt, The Strand, London - Newbury District Council taking eviction order against named ♀ + persons unknown.

Any ♀ who consider their 1st or 2nd home to be the Womens Peace Camp - come to London + try to make a statement in court - or - come + support outside.



Jayne

strip in Feb 96
strip from ...
of ...



Dec 12th at Greenham Common

We conjured willing women here
And willingly they came

So many sisters brought the power
So many sisters sang the spirit
So many sisters filled an ocean
of Love and Life.

Women wove the circle
Women linked for strength
Women planted Life in Earth
Our bodies triumphed

On this day
We turned the evil
Now our task
To drive it out.

Mary...

November Trials

On November 15th, 16th and 17th, women from the Women's Peace Camp were imprisoned for 14 days each by Newbury Magistrates, after refusing to be bound over to keep the peace. They had taken part in two separate non-violent direct actions in and outside the USAF base. These are extracts from the transcribed statements made by some of the women in court.

Christine Kings 'I am 27, a housewife and expecting my first child. I went to the base that day because that's to be the home of Cruise Missiles. They're a first strike weapon. They scare me. They've got to be stopped.'

Rebecca Johnson (research student in Japanese politics)

'I went to Hiroshima in 1981. What I heard and felt was horrifying and I tried to brush it away saying "It won't happen". But my research showed me that the arguments about deterrence weren't rational, and I realised I couldn't be an academic ostrich...'

Simone Wilkinson ...'I can remember meeting a Japanese women in London while I was expecting my second child...She told me that members of her family were killed in Hiroshima. She said that when a woman was pregnant in Hiroshima, she was given no congratulations but people waited in silence for 9 months until the child was born, to see if it was alright. ...On August 27th I walked onto the base because I knew a crime was being committed. In 1969 the Genocide Act was passed. It is my opinion that this crime is already being committed ...the presence of nuclear weapons on our soil is causing serious mental harm to many people ... women are afraid of having more children.

I personally would like to be at home with my family but have to be in Court. I am on trial for my life, not just for a breach of the peace, but if we lose this case we stand to lose our children.'

Gillian Booth (her statement was a poem...this is part of it)

...what do you do with someone like me
the animal called human who
all gut intestines wings
flies screaming in the face of official logic
unrepentantly and happily dissident
to join her friends who were occupying that sentry box
at the entrance to this monster
that all my life has breached my peace
what do you do when I admit
that I did nothing wrong
and tell you that after two men got hold of me
and dragged me back to the gate
I ran to the side gate laughing
slid the latch
and ran right in again
and that the only way I can be stopped
is to silence me by death...

Katrina Howse (this part of her speech was addressed directly to the magistrates)

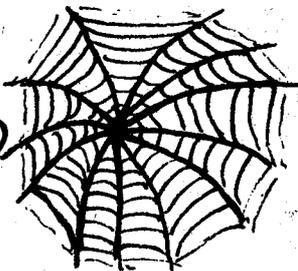
'What are you doing to keep the peace? The power you are using is supporting nuclear weapons. It supports binding women's voices, binding our minds and bodies in prison so our voices cannot be heard. So our warning of Death is being repressed. But we cannot be silenced. And I cannot be bound over. I AM ASKING YOU TO KEEP THE PEACE. WE ARE NOT ON TRIAL ... YOU ARE.'

Helen John 'When we lay in the sewage pipe trenches we took an action to make the men fully aware of what they are doing. The men found it difficult to look at any of us because they understood what we were trying to achieve - they don't want a nuclear war to happen, but because they have no alternative, we are forcing them to work at the base..... I will continue my protest until such time as it is put to the electorate in order that they can democratically vote on the matter.'

23 women were sent to prison

.....

DEC 12th



THOUSANDS OF WOMEN CAME TO THE BASE, FULL OF LIFE THEY LAUGHED AND SANG AND LOVED AND LINKED TOGETHER, CANDLES FLICKERING IN THE NIGHT LEAVING IN THE DARKNESS WITH NEW HOPE FOR CHANGE

Much has been written about Dec 12th - objective reports and personalised poems. Thirty thousand women gathered together for one reason cannot be trivialised or brushed aside. Still some have tried, with comments on the sentimental nature of the decorated fence - nappies, baby clothes, family photographs - all symbols of a women's traditional role. Of course, not many newspapers reported the tampons which also hung on the fence - a not quite so (respectable image of femininity). It was clearly a demonstration of all women - different ages, classes, nationalities - a group of individuals together, at Greenham through choice, talking about our right to live.

Since the 12th I have talked with many women who felt really uplifted and changed by the events and emotions of that day. Being at Greenham helped a large number of women become aware that we are political, that we do have the right to be self-confident, and that we do have the power to be creative and to change what is happening now.

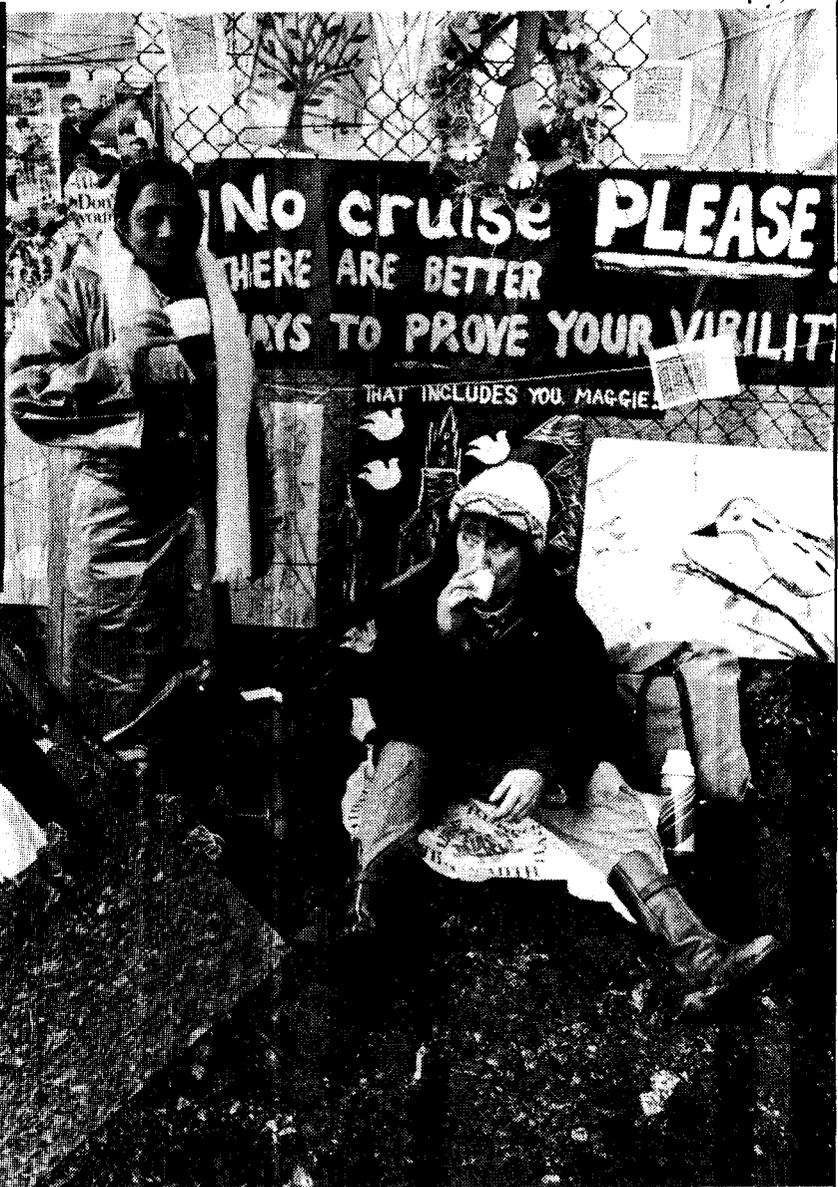
My own feelings about the 12th are very mixed. In the days leading up to the demonstration I was very excited and optimistic. I didn't know how many women would come or what would happen. But I imagined that the linking would be very special, that possibly it would go on for a long time while we sang and shared our emotions. In fact, I never got to link. Women kept approaching me asking me where they should go and what they should do, leaving the fence to fill in gaps elsewhere without realising that this was creating new gaps! At one point, women were linking all the way round the fence, but I felt that the 'embracing' with women's positive energy would have been more powerful had we been able to stay together for longer.

I think that the biggest problem was that there were many supposedly supportive men present who just did not respect women's space. It's the same old problem but I know that I wasted loads of energy asking men to go to the Mixed gate, telling men to leave the circle, and arguing with women about men. Maybe next time we have a demonstration men will be more sensitive to us.

Despite the negative aspects I felt, Dec 12th was a very special day for all women - a time to reaffirm belief in ourselves and our own power. We know we will never change the 'war mentality' if we use war and violence ourselves. But we can take responsibility for our own lives and our own actions. While in the past, and still today, men have left their homes to fight wars (and also fought wars in the home), women must now go out and work towards peace. On the 12th thirty thousand women at Greenham and millions more all over the world said NO to cruise and NO to war. At the fence we cried 'FREEDOM' - and now our words are becoming actions as we join together and celebrate our strength.

Sue

Anita Corbin



Jenny Matthews

Jenny Matthews



Aggie

The 12th has merged with the 13th in my mind to such a degree that it's difficult to remember exactly when one day ended and the other began.

On the night of the 12th, a beautiful silver pyramid was erected right outside the main gate, and after a very short and fitful night's sleep inside it, I settled down in front of the gate with about 15 other women and the blockade was on. It was about 5.30 am, and we were all in a picnic mood, much too hyped up to be sleepy.

The support we were given was endless: plastic sheeting and sleeping bags to sit on, blankets to put over our knees, and a constant supply of hot drinks and food.

When the sun rose it became a beautiful day: cold, but sunny and bright and cloudless.

Inevitably the press arrived: what were we hoping to achieve? Would we succeed? What about the Russians?

When I heard, later on in the morning, that all the gates had been successfully blockaded, I turned to the woman next to me and we hugged and kissed triumphantly.

The women on the blockade began to change, allowing others to take their turn on the gate. Towards midday we received encouraging reports that the police were facing an impossible task in trying to remove hundreds of women lying down in front of other gates; along with rather more disturbing reports of women being brutalised by the police.

I read a book, did a crossword, and dozed off as I reached a low ebb in energy.

The police moved in at dusk. A friend of mine called Deb had sat down next to me a moment before just for a chat. Everything happened so suddenly that she had no chance to leave, though she hadn't wanted to take part.

A mass of about 100 overcoated (to cover their ID numbers) police emerged from one of the base buildings and walked rapidly towards us. A second later another huge crowd of police approached us from the road. Very quickly a few more women sat down with us. Then we were completely surrounded.

I was very very afraid, and I could feel the fear from the others. Deb took my hand and we all spontaneously sang 'You Can't Kill The Spirit'.

First they dismantled and ripped the pyramid. Then the ones inside began to push the gate. The singing had given us strength and courage and for a while we were able to hold it shut. We shouted to each other 'Push hard, don't let them open it'.

When it gave, it opened quickly. The face of the woman on my right was twisted with pain as one of the bars on the gate ground into her back. The police in front began to pick women up and drag them roughly away. The gate opened further, Deb's hand was torn from my grasp, and I saw her being crushed between the gate and the pavement. She looked very white. An elderly woman in front of me was pulled brutally away, despite shouts from women, asking the police to take care.

No woman cried out, or attempted to fight, or abused the police. Then came my turn. I went limp as soon as I felt their hands on me. They dropped me and I thought it was all over, but suddenly I felt my thumb grasped hard. I was dragged along by it and half thrown, half dragged against the fence. My thumb and shoulder both felt very sore.

I got up and found myself crying uncontrollably. When I found Deb she too was weeping. All around us women were crying with anger and shock; or shouting out their fury. Deb and I held each other, rocking and sobbing.

Once all the vehicles had left the base, the police disappeared. The remains of the beautiful silver pyramid lay by the side of the road, torn and spoiled. I went and sat by the fire, hardly believing what I'd seen.

A while later I noticed activity by the main gate. Women had lit a tiny fire outside the gate. Deb and I fetched straw and wood; others did the same. The fire grew and blazed; we lit candles; we sang. Soon, about 100 women stood there.

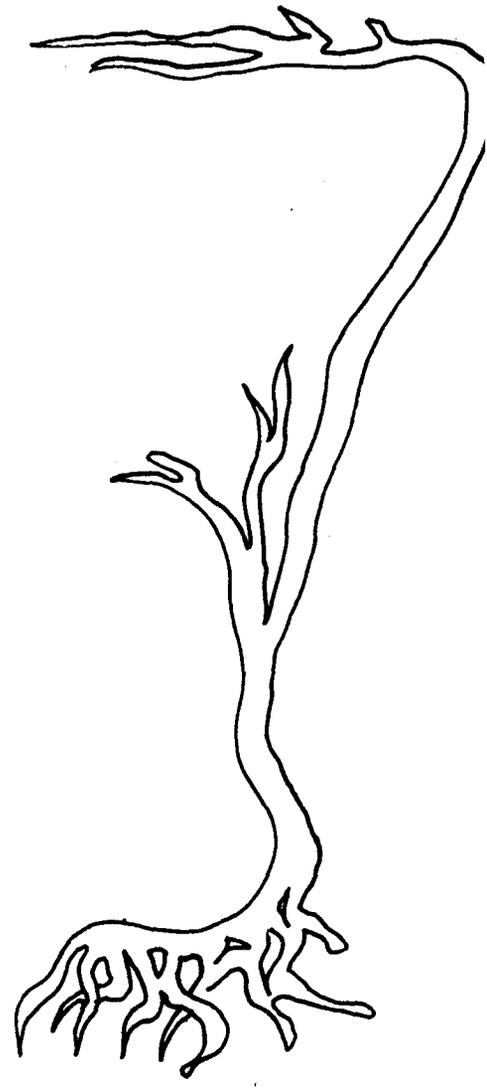
I had always thought that we could stay and succeed in stopping cruise, but that day I became certain.

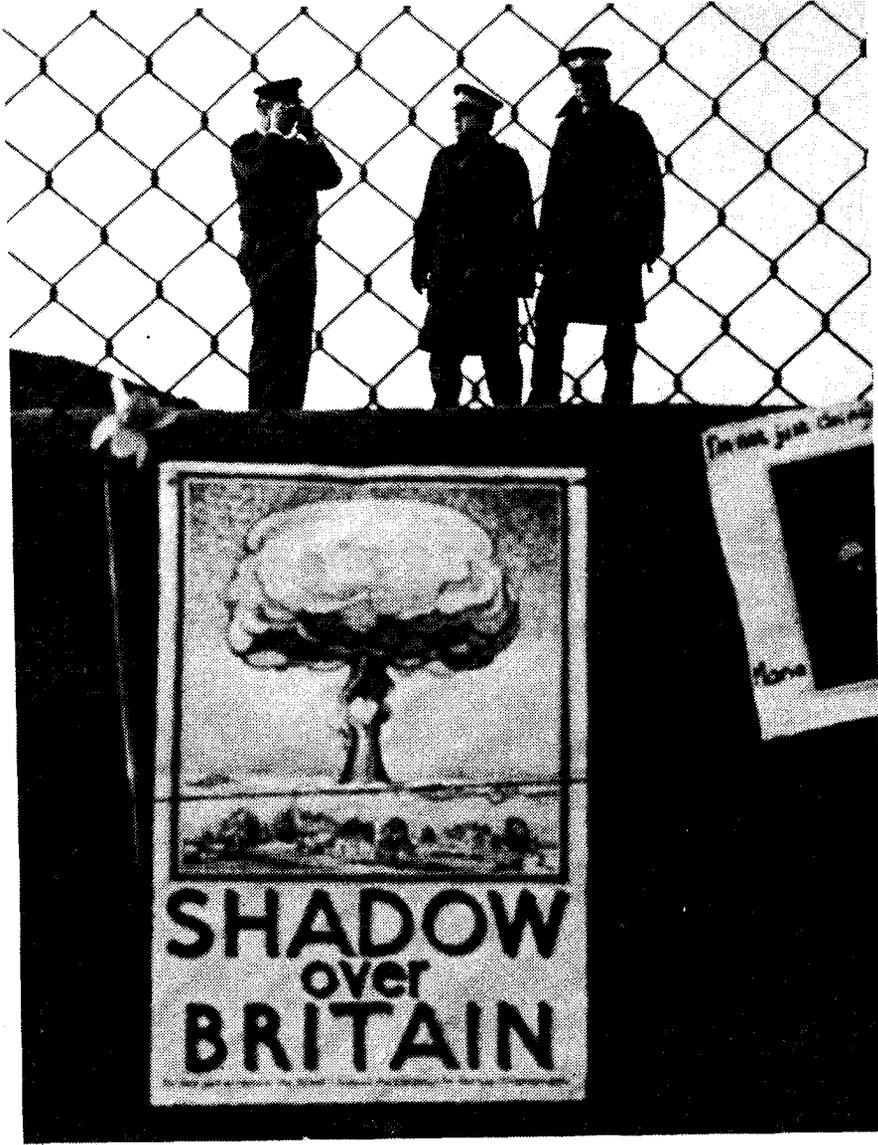
Women, who minutes before had been hauled around and hurt, sang out their hope. I saw women who had the courage not to fight on behalf of their friends. I felt our strength, power and determination. And that little fire grew to become a beacon that for me signified Life.

Toni

♪ You can't kill the spirit ♪
She is like a mountain
Old and strong
She goes on and on and on

Dec
13th





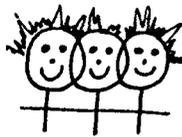
Brenda Prince



Russa Page



JAN 1st - Silos



New Years Day ~ January 1st 1983 ~ women bringing sight and seeing through ... passing over the offensive fencing and order, and entering into the closed ears that want to keep challenging voices silent.

The idea and amazing energy of going over the fence via ladders and climbing onto the silos came from one woman, but became the excitement and energies of a hundred or more women. Nearly the whole area around the silos is encircled by row upon row of barbed wire fence, apart from one small stretch where there was just one fence. On the Friday, ten ladders were bought from a nearby town. Late at night six of us, with ladders, blankets and a huge vehicle drove to the Blue gate and down the side lane. We went into the woods with the ladders disguised with blankets and camouflaged them with branches and earth, and left as quietly as we had come.

At six o'clock the next morning while it was still dark - we wanted to climb over the fence at the moment of dawn - we were driven to the Blue gate, from which we walked towards the area where we would enter the enclosed common, collecting the ladders on the way. It was only seven o'clock, the sky would be lighting at around seven-thirty - and not all the women had arrived. So we waited Twenty minutes later we trudged through the mud and undergrowth towards the fence, nerves tender, excitement spinning through our bodies.

We knew that now, standing before the fence, we would need to be so quick - two ladders were propped successfully against the fence, with carpet laid over the top barbed wire and a ladder was slid down the other side. The atmosphere was frantic as we clambered over - headlights were driving towards us while it seemed an endless stream of women were crossing the barriers of destruction, bringing new life and hope.

As we jumped from the ladders on the other side, we crouched for a moment, waiting for other women, wondering 'will we get there?' In the next second we had joined hands - suddenly two policemen were there aggressively shoving the ladders and wrenching them away from the inside of the fence, leaving two women on top of the barbed wire ... they jumped ... we began singing and walking quickly, almost at a run, towards the silos. Our hearts were beating and our voices rang out clearly .. the sky was light and it was softly raining on our faces.

We scrambled up the mud drenched slopes to the top of the silos. Unbelieving - but knowing - we cheered, waved, jumped up and down, hugged each other in what seemed like an endless amount of energy! We had brought with us a huge piece of cloth with 'Peace 83' painted across it which we held for the women to see, for the TV cameras who would then take it back to broadcast into livingrooms all over the country.

We came to stand on these massive concrete 'storehouses' to draw attention to the preparations of war. Ceri writes ... 'I remember feeling ecstatic and overjoyed that we had successfully planted our statements for peace and life while standing on the top of what threatens the existence of our planet'.

For over an hour we danced, sang and made women's peace symbols with the stones that lay on the surface. We saw police and American military buses arriving. We sat in a large circle and one by one we were dragged down the muddy slopes into the buses and driven to Newbury police station where we were charged with 'breach of the peace' - we had been prepared for the possibility of being charged under the Official Secrets Act ... but it would appear that the MoD do not want to involve themselves! Still our energy continued to vibrate in our feelings and voices throughout the police cells.

Bee

Pam Isnerwood



Raisa Page



12.

JAN 17 ■ HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

January 17th was the first day on which Parliament was in session in 1983. This is a crucial year for everybody in this country. 96 cruise missiles were due to arrive at Greenham in December 1983 - now there are rumours that their arrival has been brought forward to April.

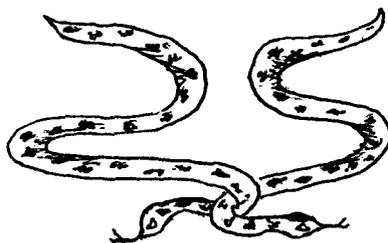
People living in this so-called 'democracy' have never been consulted about the decision to site American cruise missiles in Britain. (Even MPs have not had a full debate on cruise.) We will not be dictated to in this way.

We went to Parliament on January 17th in order to make our position clear to the MPs who supposedly represent us.

The women who went to Parliament were not only from the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham, but also from all over the country. We were admitted to the lobby where many women were already lobbying their MPs. At 3.30 pm some women formed a circle, and this diverted the police attention from about 40 women who ran towards the door of the debating chamber, in an attempt to gain access and make a statement directly to the Speaker of the House. Police managed to bar the door so we sat down in front of it and began to sing. The song, 'You can't kill the spirit' went on as the police dragged us, and the women who had formed a circle in the lobby, down to a corner of Westminster Hall. There we were surrounded by police for about three hours ... nobody told us why we were being detained; the only information we received was that our presence had been mentioned in the House of Commons.

We were uncertain what would happen to us. Would we just be thrown out? Or would we be arrested? Many of us hoped for the latter. A law of 1666 states that anyone arrested for causing a disturbance in Parliament can either be held within the House until the end of the session or be tried in the Commons by the Speaker. For us this would be a prime opportunity to tell the MPs that WE DO NOT WANT CRUISE OR ANY OTHER NUCLEAR MISSILES and they have no right to make decisions to deploy them in our name.

Eventually all the women were released. No one was tried in Parliament. But we think it was very necessary to go to Parliament to make MPs aware of our presence. And we will take our protest to every institution which is part of the nuclear network: the USAF bases, the arms manufacturers, the construction industries working on the bases, the computer centres, the bunkers, and the decision-making bodies.



Feb 7th On Heseltine's Visit (A Personal View)

The newspaper headlines this morning mocked me: "100's of jeering women" "knock down minister", "mob", "Heseltine felled". It wasn't like that of course. I was there and 'saw it all'...and we expected the press to turn nasty at some point. Quite apart from their coverage however, I didn't enjoy the demonstration, and I have been trying all day to think out why.

It started well. I am someone who is nervous of total lack of structure, and I came down to the camp anxious and worried, but Greenham is teaching me to be more spontaneous and in fact everything was going well. Women had been invited from all over to come down and do what they wanted. All morning they arrived, got into groups, talked, and worked out what they wanted to do. What evolved was a temporary blockade. Groups going off to blockade different gates as and when they were ready - disrupting work rather than preventing it. Four other groups had already gone into the base, dancing and singing in snake costumes. Taking in their own positive forms of life to counteract the preparations for death. They were all arrested. The blockade went on until about 2.30pm, with 25 women arrested at the construction worker's gate. Then we decided to go into town.

It was here that for me the problems began. My affinity group had that morning discussed what action we wanted to take. We were going to stand blindfolded and silent outside the council chamber with a note saying "don't be blinded by propaganda", and another saying "why not come and talk to us". We hadn't thought there would be any point in stopping Heseltine speaking. Nor did we think it would be achievable. Rather we wanted to make our own statement to the public and media who might be listening to him. We wanted it to be as strong and dignified a statement as we could make it. There was no opportunity however to really discuss this with other groups.

It was cold. There was a lot of traffic. Some women had gone to the police station, some for cups of coffee. No-one seemed to know when Heseltine might arrive. About 50 of us did get into a circle and tried to discuss what we would do. We agreed we didn't want to yell, and one woman taught us to keen: a low, mourning two syllable sound, rocking on our knees. There were many women who wanted to blockade the entrances to make Heseltine confront us. Many didn't. The result was a hurried discussion (with hindsight I think too hurried), and a decision to split into two groups with the keeners supporting a small number of women who would lie down when Heseltine arrived so that he would have to step over their 'dead bodies'. We had another hour to wait. Women danced and sang to keep warm. By 4.30 pm it was growing dark, and the police had started to arrive in large numbers. (Many more women had arrived; those released from jail after the morning's action, and those who had supported them. But there was no opportunity for further discussion.) Their technique was to form a cohort of about 50, abreast, and to quick-march into the thickest part of the crowd (in front of the main entrance), spreading women by sheer impact. A whole crowd of women spont-

aneously lay down in front of the main door, and what originally had been a small symbolic lie-in suddenly became a very heavy blockade confronting about 100 police. As blockades go it was quite impressive. The police were very aggressive. They didn't lift any women out of the way, they simply pushed and cleared, rolling women one on top of the other. Then Heseltine arrived. The atmosphere was already tense and angry with all the pushing and shoving from the police, who seemed to lose patience altogether and simply rammed Heseltine through, pushing him to the ground in their eagerness, then lifting him and carrying him indoors. It was over. Some women looked exhilarated and jubilant. Others were in small huddles crying. "Why are you looking so unhappy?" a friend asked me. "It didn't feel non-violent, and I don't know what we were doing" I replied. "Well women have to express their anger" She replied.

She was right of course. I do not believe that non-violence is the suppression of anger, but it is the ability to turn anger into a positive force, rather than let it become confused with bitterness and hate. Differing perceptions as to what constitutes a positive force seems to be one of the problems.

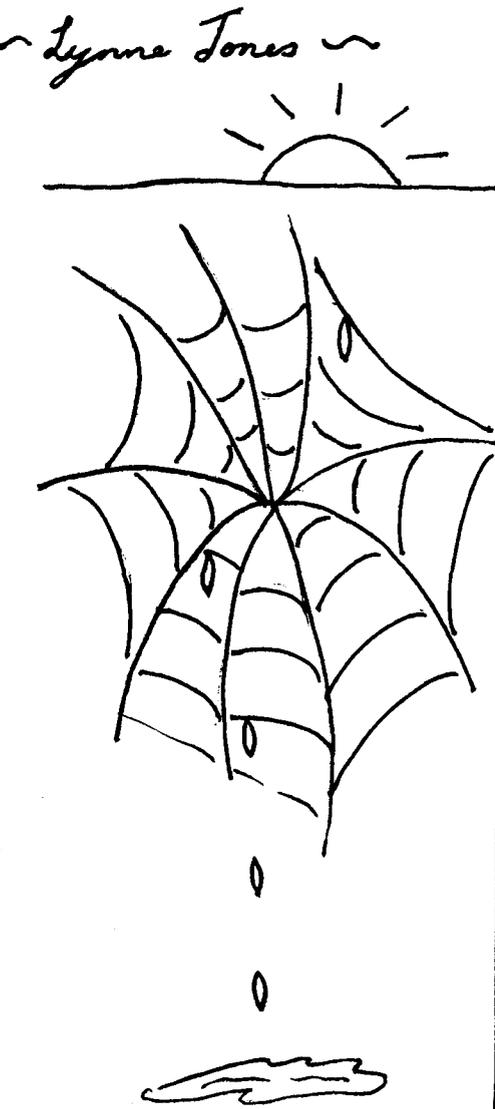
For me non-violence is not simply a technique of struggle, but comes out of a belief that all life is worth love and respect. Whatever my anger, hatred and loathing for a system, it is the evil itself which needs attacking, not the person who represents, supports or carries out that evil. For one thing I am as responsible for letting him/her carry out the evil, so punishment is not justified. Secondly a personal attack, while temporarily relieving my feelings, does nothing to stop the evil, it simply makes the person more hostile, aggressive and defensive, and lessens the possibility of changing him/her. (Yes, I am one of those naive idealists who think even the Michael Heseltine's of the world can be changed.) That doesn't mean that I won't do all in my power non-violently to stop a person doing something I consider wrong; but not cooperating and so withdrawing his sources of power, or intervening to prevent the act from taking place are not the same as a personal attack. But the main problem is that there wasn't time or space before the action to sort out with all the women taking part where, how, and why we were acting. The amazing thing about all the Greenham actions I'd been on before was that they made people think. The symbol and messages were very clear. "Women turn their backs on war." We turned our backs in silence. We danced on silos to symbolise life as opposed to death. But what were we doing blockading Heseltine? Did we feel that he should be stopped from speaking at all costs? Did we want to confront him with our dead bodies as a symbol of what his policy was doing? If so, was that the best space to do it? I for one had not thought it through and was very confused. That meant that I couldn't explain clearly to other women who came along what we were doing.

This is a very personal view. Other women may have been clear from start to finish, but we have to communicate that clarity to each other if we are ever going to get our non-violent message across to the general public.

There is always a tension between the need for spontaneity and the need for structure. Too much structure and it prevents women's imaginations from working, and gives no space for new ideas to emerge. With no structure at all, only the most confident and experienced feel completely at ease, and one can have a situation where only the fastest and loudest idea is taken up. People can feel mixed, confused, and frightened.

At the camp there is time and space. Women know each other well, and can spend days discussing ideas, and act when they are ready and confident. Newcomers can be absorbed into this process as they were on Monday morning. In more hostile surroundings however, when actual timing matters, and especially when large numbers of women have never met before, it seems to me essential that time beforehand is deliberately set aside to prepare for action, rather than going into it spontaneously.

We are going to need more and more confidence and strength as we are more successful and the authorities get heavier and more hostile. I think training and preparation help this. If we do it on a local basis we will have a network of groups across the country that can be the basis for decentralised actions like May 24th, and make mass actions easier to organise. Then I don't think we can lose.



Ssssnakes on the Seventh of the Second.....

Early morning....snowflakes falling....the sound of drums and women's voices around the fire.
We made three long snakes the day before, the wind and dance our way into the base on the day that Heseltine visits Newbury.
Practical things- getting material, plastic, sewing, painting.....magic feelings - the snake - the serpent - women's energy - the spirit of nature - spring returning to the earth - healing - life - fun - laughter - caring.....

Everyone is everywhere..then suddenly out of the chaos we're all in two vans and two cars and on our way round the base to 6 the unbolted 'gap' on the other side.....the 'gap' that was opened up by police on March 22nd blockade when 34 women were arrested. The 'gap', where, on Dec.13th blockade when around 20 women went through and planted snow-drops and seeds. The land felt welcoming and friendlythere we were again on the 8th February.

Through the gap we went....no damage done... just three bolts removed....around 40 women get into their snakes..Cybil, Cessilly and Rosie. Singing, sliding, slithering our way to the runway. Cybil goes off into the distance....Cessilly and Rosie shed their painted material skins on the runway and are reborn. (two rather confused; police kept getting in the way at first, but then gave up)

In an undulating row... holding hands...singing..... calling out sounds of enchantment we swept our way down the runway. We seemed to go on and on and on. It felt very good. All that space and on we walked, confident and un-afraid. Snnnnake sssssspell going to the heart of the sickness.

A few police vans park on the runway in a half-hearted attempt to stop us, but we run round them, hold hands again and carry on. After about half a mile we decide to go over to ~~the~~ big piles of earth where workmen are....to see what they're doing...talk to the We sit on the piles of earth, stop a 'digger thing'....talk to the men, who at first were very worried seeing about 30 women walking towards them, holding hands....but we waved and shouted hello...and they realised that we were friendly.

We told the workmen we'd be getting into the big hole they were digging (something to do with petrol tanks). When a group of police and R.A.F. came to 'get' us, we got into the hole and moved round in a circle. We were dragged off to the vans...It was one hour that we were in the base. (being dragged or not being dragged is always the individual woman's choice. I, personally at this point did not want to assist and so went limp.)

Newbury Police Station felt like the Women's Peace Camp (with some obvious differences!!!!)....so many women of all ages and backgrounds.Those of us who were snakes were released after about 2 1/2 hours and the police said that they were going to investigate and that we might be done for criminal damage (there was none) or breach of the Peace (it was very peaceful)....but, then again.....???

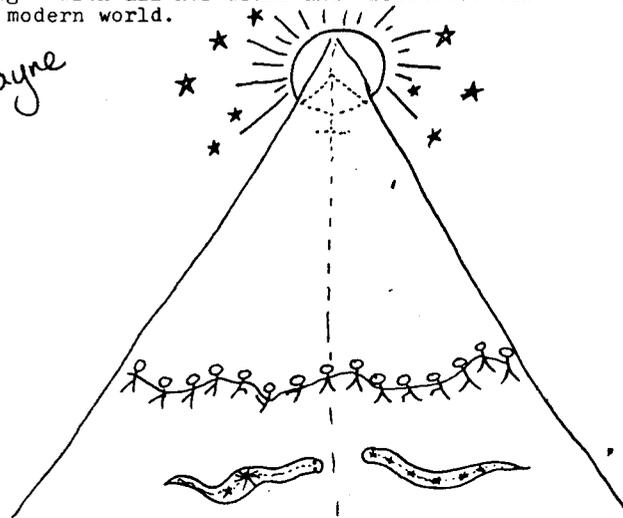
Well...!!! The goddess was looking after us that day... or was it the snake charmers- each snake had a woman on the outside of the fence who played music to help bring us back safely.

We are learning, growing, re-discovering the stories of old. I don't believe that the serpent was a 'baddy' in the Adam and Eve story. Whether the fruit of knowledge, in its maturity was given or stolen doesn't matter to me at the moment.....Adam was not ready for that fruit. We have patriarchy and look where we are?

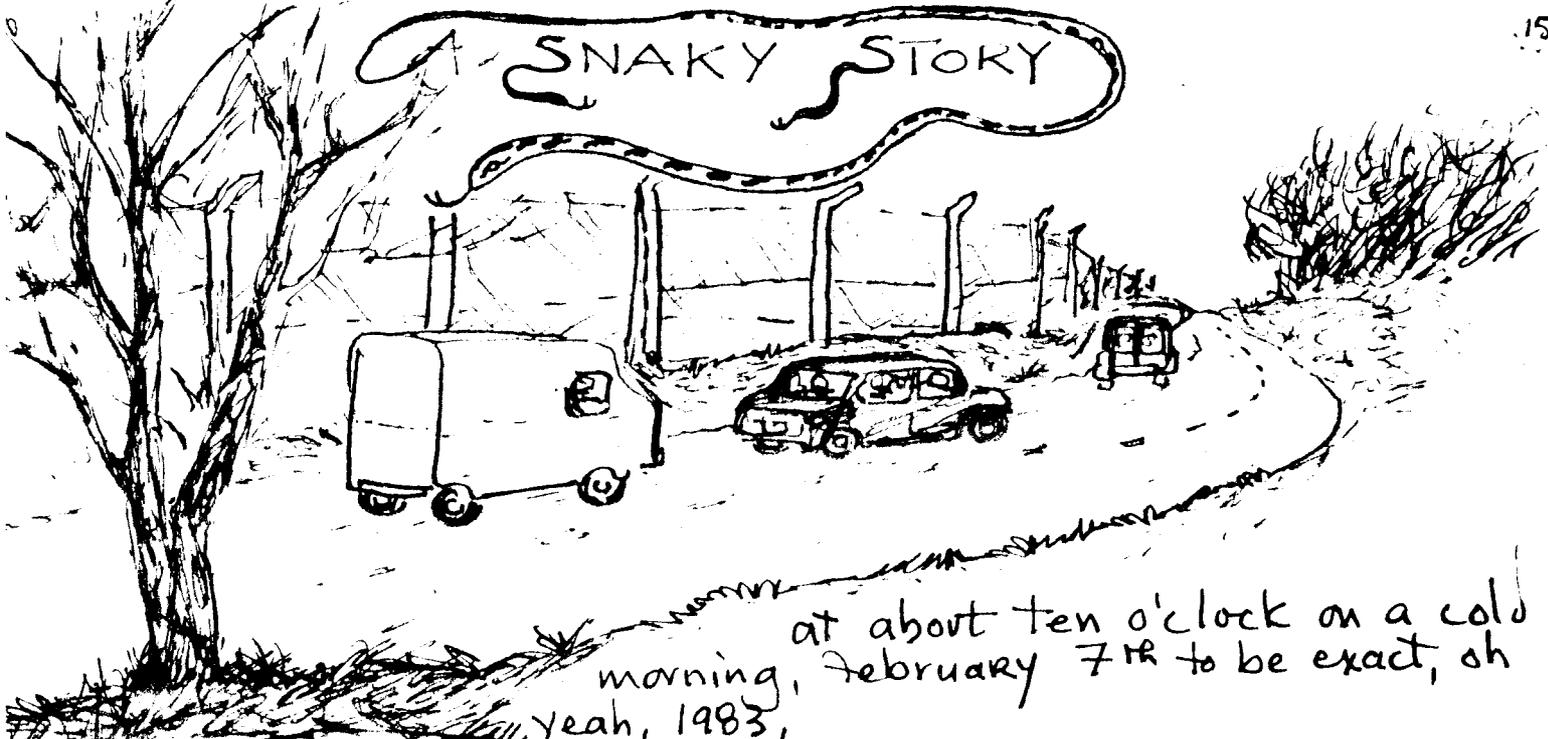
destructive

On the brink of global disaster... the path of ~~black~~ alchemy is nearing its' suicidal end. Eve must take back the fruit, or grow another tree.....untangle the mess, spin and weave the tread of life againwith care and compassion, strength and passion. Clever and cunning - with all her deams and visions.....in this strange, alienating modern world.

Jayne



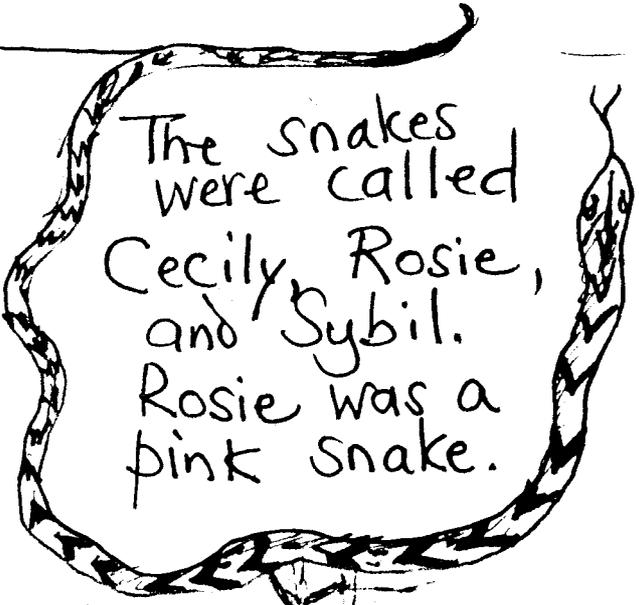
A SNAKY STORY



at about ten o'clock on a cold morning, February 7th to be exact, oh yeah, 1983,



a glance in the wing mirror would have shown three snakes entering USAF Greenham Common Newbury Berke, by means of a gap in the high security fence. (Which some women had opened)



The snakes were called Cecily, Rosie, and Sybil. Rosie was a pink snake.



Those woollyhatted Greenham women were at it again and

had got their heads together because the Minister of Defence was coming to Newbury. The minister of defense is called Tarzan, or Goldilocks.



Sybil, Rosie and Cecily were non venomous snakes and managed to insinuate themselves onto the main runway



This is not a water cannon yet.

p.s. (I was in Sybil who was a slow snake)

expecting Sarah and her stowaway
and got a good long way before they were finally apprehended

..... but even that did not stop us



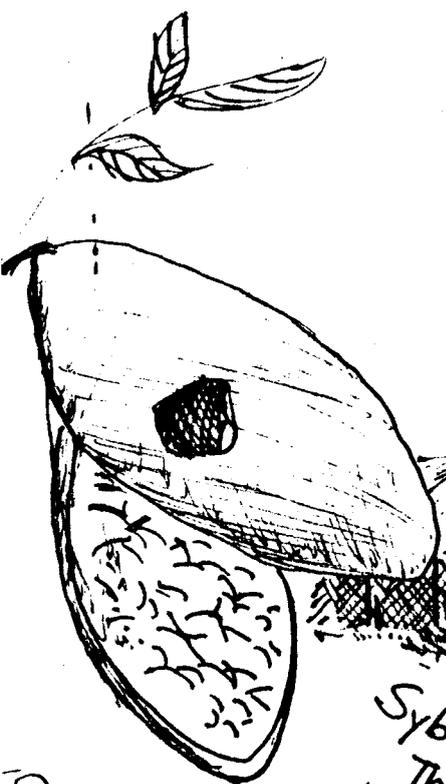
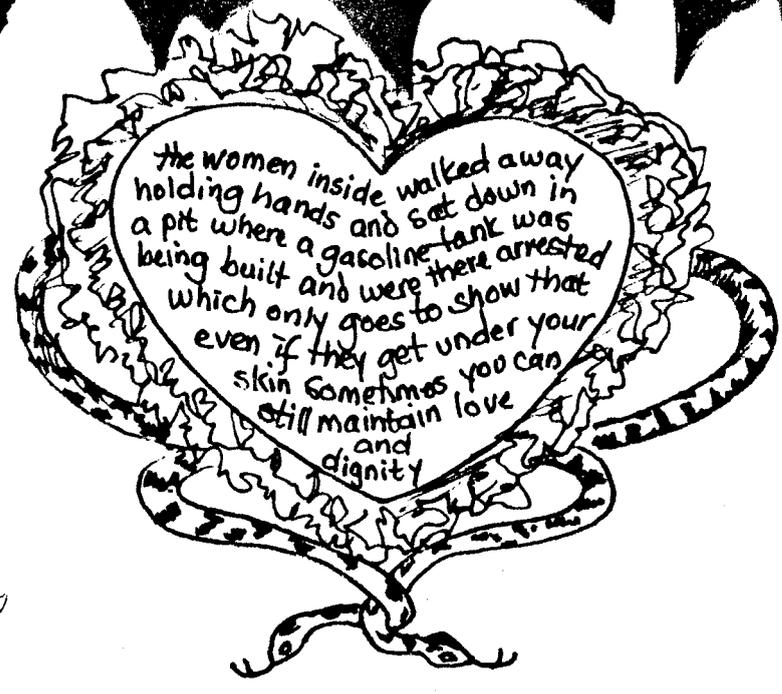
(Sybil shed her head temporarily so she could clear the bonnet)

in the meantime, Rosie and Cecily....

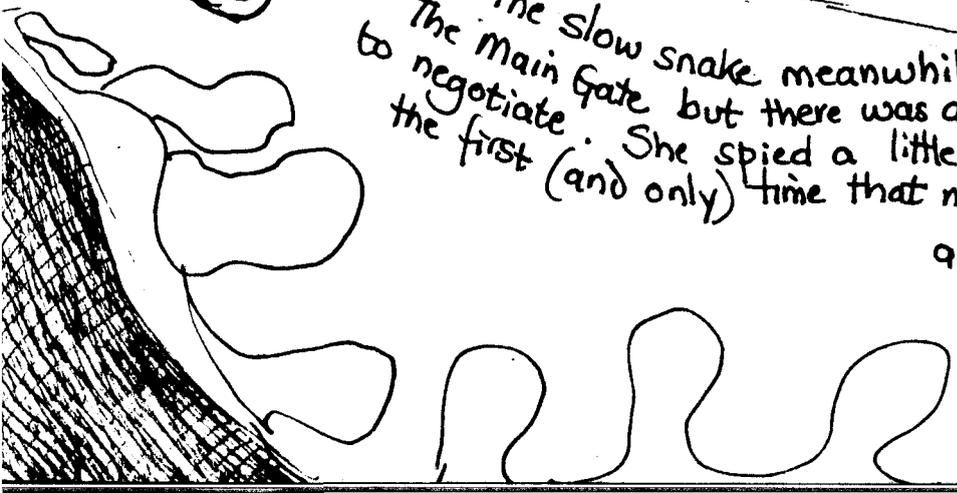
were ripped apart
in a disgraceful show

of sheer exasperation
and panic by several
men

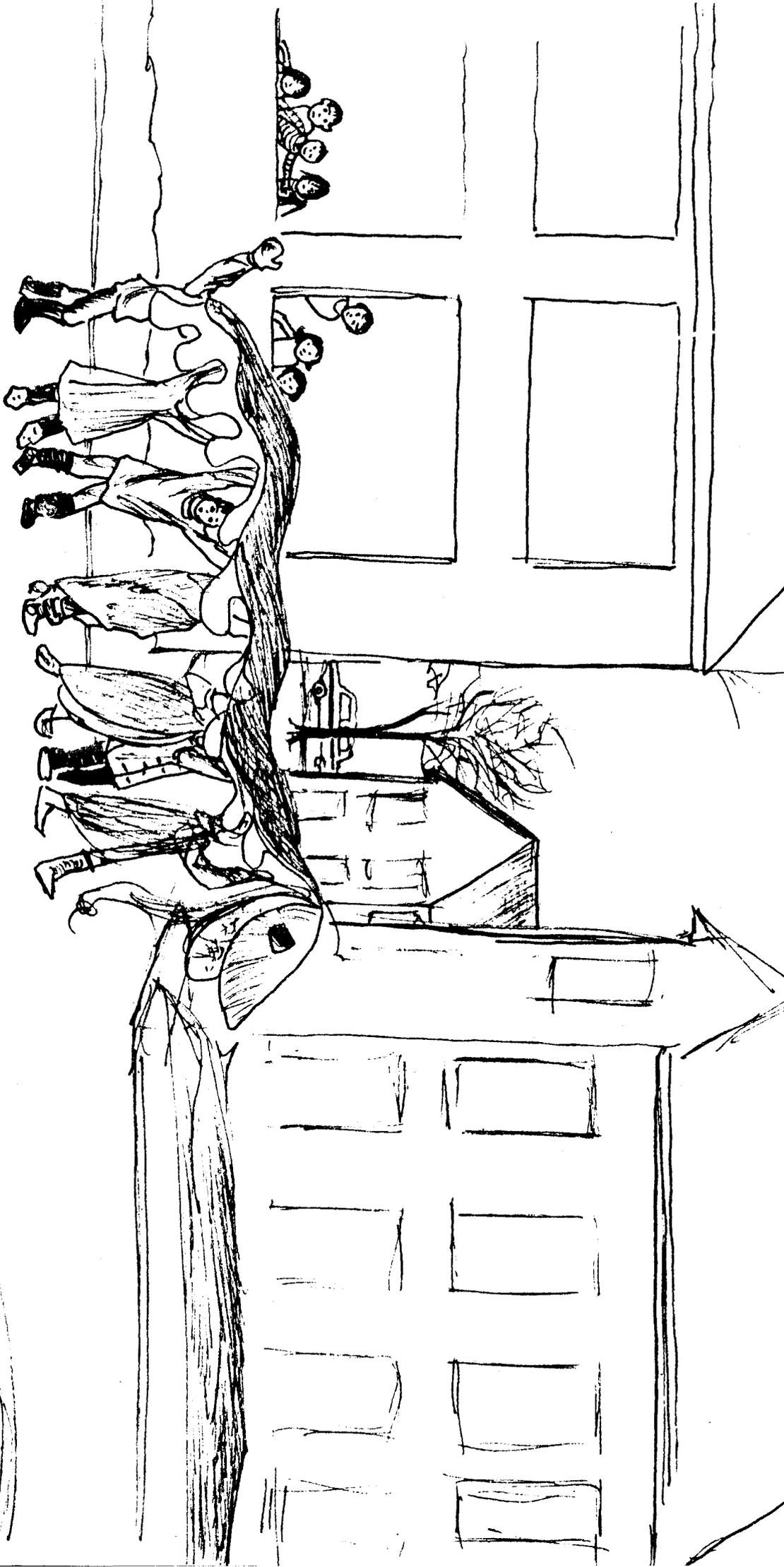
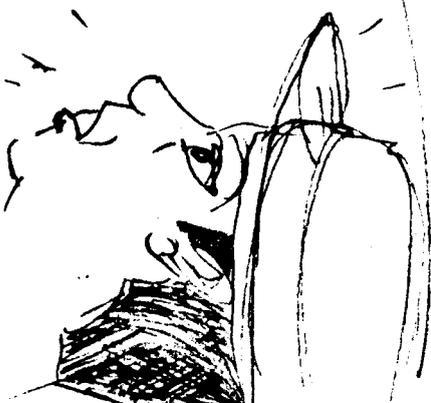
who call themselves
'POLICE'



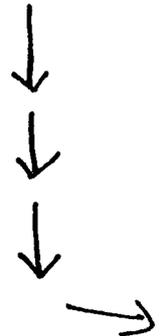
Sybil the slow snake meanwhile was getting close to the main gate but there was a maze of office buildings to negotiate. She spied a little open gate, and for the first (and only) time that morning, slightly speeded up and slipped through it



... and slithered happily singing louder and louder past offices, officers, workmen and a room full of children who looked pleased to see her



UNTIL SHE WAS FINALLY NABBED
ALMOST AT THE MAIN GATE

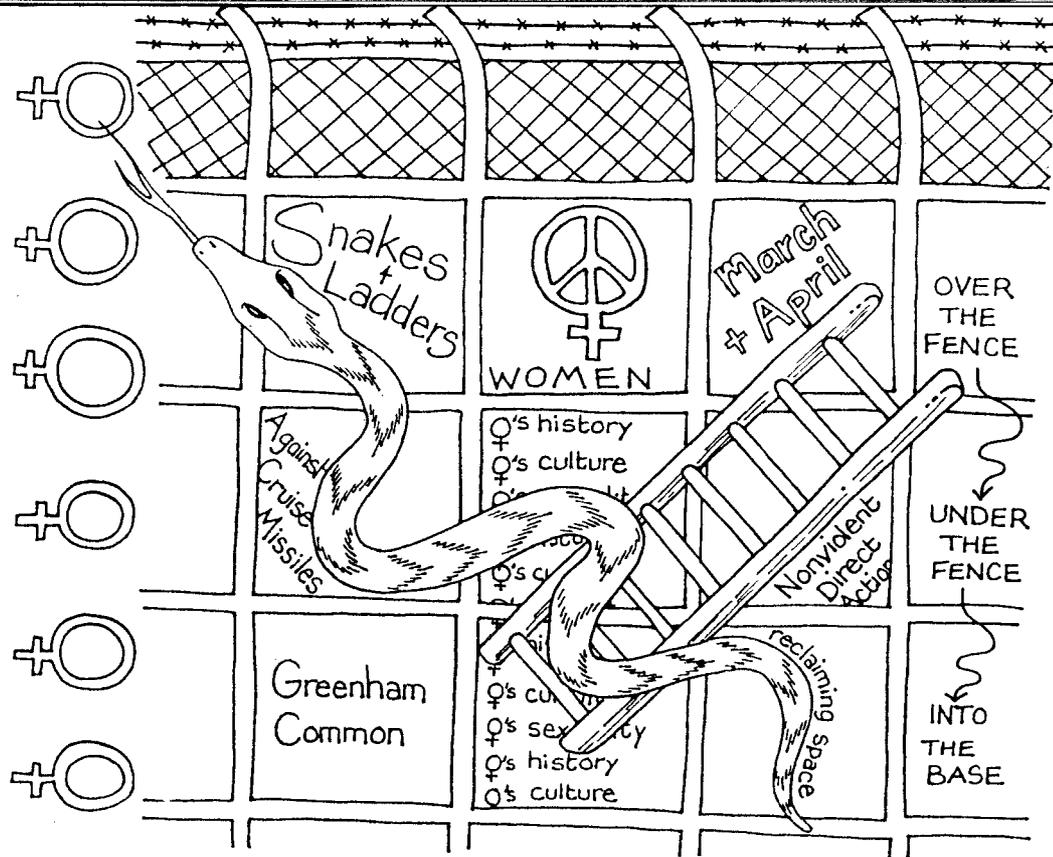


Where we amused ourselves
further by chalking anarchy
and peace women's signs on
a few patrol and riot helmets
while being held in a van owned
by men who call themselves 'Police'.
We saved Sybil's head, which
accompanied us to Newbury
'Police' Station and was released
when we were after the charges
against us were dropped



sybil had an exceedingly successful sortie, I would say

BERT Greenham
Feb 8
1983



Throughout the months of March and April we are going to play a giant game of "snakes and ladders" at Greenham Common!

Women are invited to come and camp anywhere around the 9 mile perimeter fence and to plan and take part in nonviolent actions involving entering the base - either over the fence with ladders or under the fence - like snakes!

Small actions of this kind, along with blockades of the gates, will be happening continuously throughout March and April as a way of stepping up the pressure on the government and military and of focusing attention on the construction of the Cruise missile silos.

These actions will be of an obvious political nature because we are making direct confrontations with the authorities and challenging their power - but we can also use our imaginations to combine our politics with the personal (inseparable anyway?) We can use this time to explore aspects of women's history, women's culture, women's sexuality through the use of art, drama, ritual, etc, perhaps even making these part of the actions inside the base.

When we're dealing with the nuclear issue it's easy to become overpowered by all the negative images. Women together being creative helps us to realise our own strength and the positive images we create can give us a vision of the future to work towards. March and April will be a reclaiming of space in more sense than one.

When you come to stay at Greenham please come as self-sufficient as possible; bring plenty of warm clothing and bedding, tents, candles, food, etc.

For women who have never taken part in direct action and would like to do some training beforehand, please send an S.A.E. to one of the following addresses:-

"Snakes and Ladders",
7 White Hill,
Ecchinswell,
Newbury,
Berks.

"Snakes and Ladders"
1 Crowland Terrace,
Islington,
London N1.

- and we will be pleased to arrange a workshop in your town.

International Women's Day for Disarmament

~ 24 May 1983 ~

-Women's Day of Action and Strike for Disarmament.

As a most powerful action against missile madness and the arms race, we would like to see an International Women's Strike happening on May the 24th.

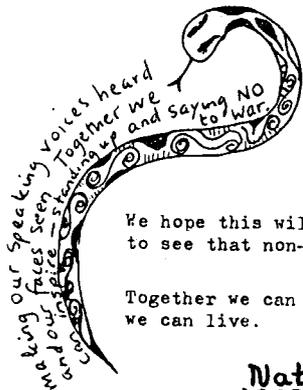
For women all over the world to stand up and take actions against the war threat. Leaving their "normal" occupation and raising their voice for life on earth. Every woman can find or create a group to do actions in their local area.

Women all over the world together in spirit, showing our power. Our right to be alive and living on this earth. That means we have to build up, very quickly a network of regional groups to inform and involve as many women as possible in this action.

Any-thing can happen -like blockades of all armament factories and supporting industries, 'visuals' in market places, die-ins (such as the one that took place last summer in London out-side the Stock Exchange where eighty women were involved in lying in the roads for fifteen minutes, while other women gave out leaflets to the held up traffic and people walking and standing along the streets. Leaflets explaining the reason for the action.) talks, information stalls etc.

We hope this will grow to be a powerful day and inspire many more people to see that non-violent actions can be very effective statements.

Together we can work and make our voices heard, for a future in which we can live.



National Contact
 'May 24th'
 16 Arundel Road
 Brighton
 East Sussex

Fundraising + Donations
 Women's Peace Action Ak
 Midland Bank
 North Street
 Brighton
 A/c no: 51222449

REGIONAL CONTACTS

- Northeast Liz Reveley, 50 Third Ave, Heaton, Newcastle. Ph:500343
- North Central Leslie Bolton, 3 Wharnclyffe Rd, Brookhill, Sheffield, Ph: 0742 25079
- Central (Leics, Notts) Andrea Heath, 15 Kimberley Rd, Leics. Ph: 0533 55691
- South Central (Women's Peace Camp/Oxford) Barbara or Aggie, 7 White Hill, Eccleinswell, Newbury, Berks. Ph: 0635 298512
- Central Wales Thalia Campbell, Glangors Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed. Ph: 097081360
- South Wales Susan Lamb, Lynn Fortt, 7 York Tce, Porth, Rhondda, Mid Glam.
- Southwest (Bristol, Bath) Gail Griffiths, Alison Segar, 8 St. Saviours Tce, Larkhall, Bath. Ph: 0225 319121 or 334895
- Southwest (Devon) Sara Meyer, 6 Fore St, Salcombe, Devon. Ph: 054884 2979 (wk) or 2851 (home)
- Southeast (Brighton - Dover) Jan Fryer, 'The Mount', London Rd, Brighton, East Sussex. Ph: 0273 566744
- South Central Sue Bolton, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Ph: 0983 854457



THE TYRANT

On his throne he sits
On everyone's head he spits
Swears and farts with thousand winds
Gets the whip out, thinks he wins

What if he dangles with his knees
Kills thousands as if they were just flees
Just a wink of his eyes is enough
To bring death and fire from above

So he goes on for many years
Doesn't listen to swearing and sneers
Is not afraid of attempts to his life
Doesn't listen to friends nor wife

He carries on and is not seen
To ever weep or wail or keen
No word ever passes from his lips
No sword nor gun dangles off his hips

He silently holds the strings of life
Holds the hopes and longings we all strive
He is the leader, the big man, the boss
He is the one who doesn't feel the loss

That's what he thought until one day he saw
That no one was left to fight in his war
All on his own you could see him walk
Through the rooms of his palace and talk

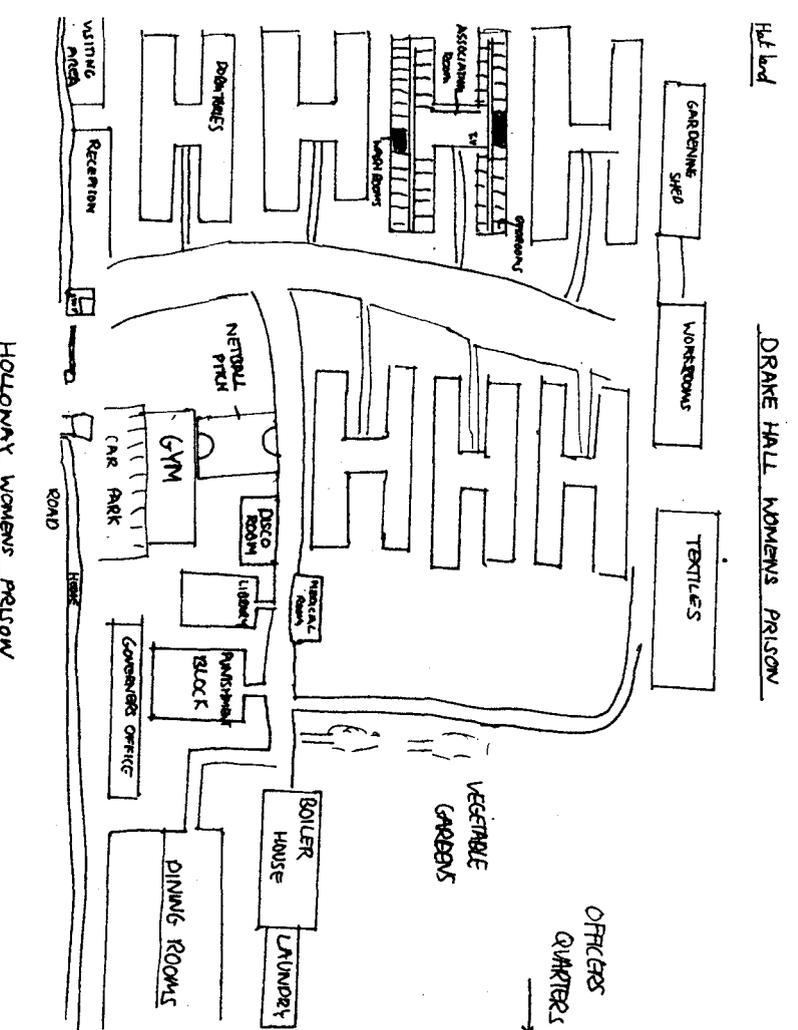
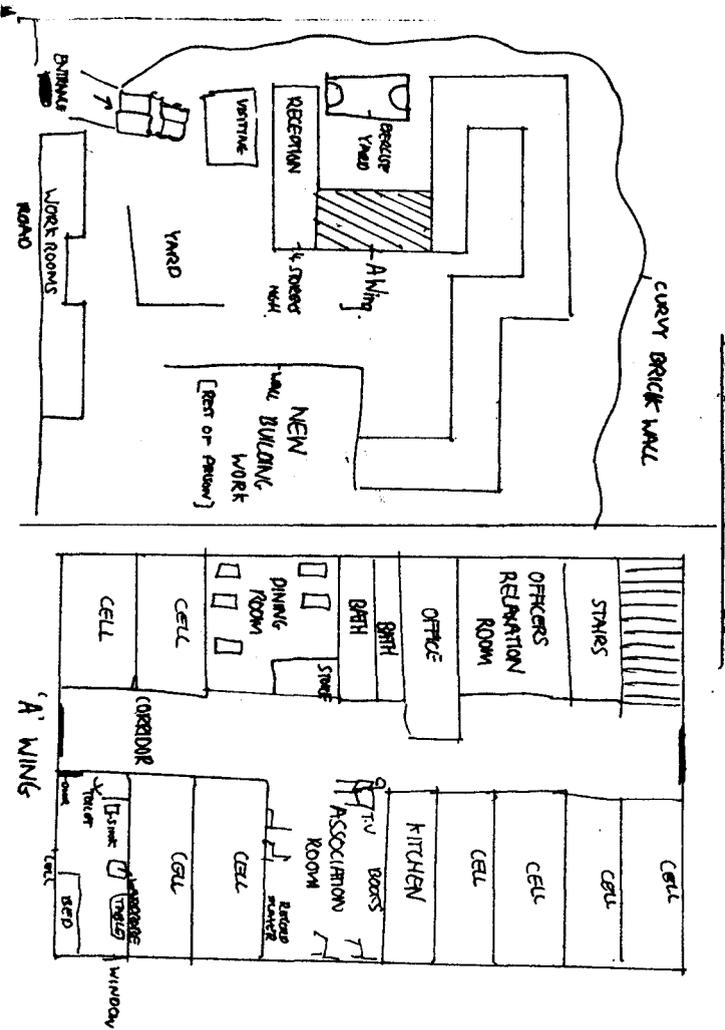
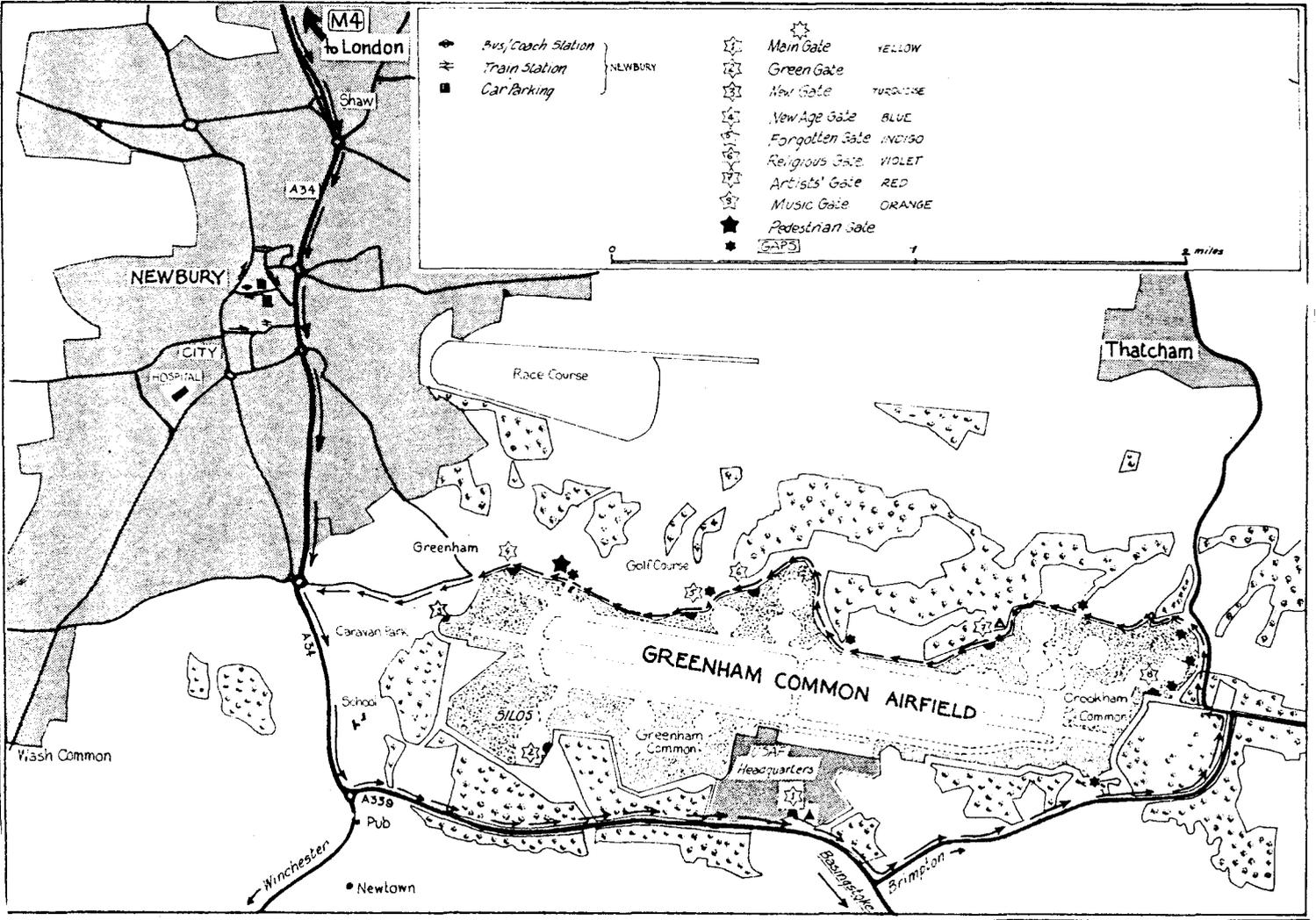
To the mirror instead of a human face
All of the country was doomed by a maze
Of canon fog and active dust
That covered the earth with a snowwhite crust

Oh wintertime, I like you so
He stepped to the window, the sun hung low
I go for a stroll, thought the fool he was
And stepped outside on what he thought was grass

It wasn't I tell you, better he should have known
It was a bomb that no one watched grown
In thousand pieces he now lies
A nice bit of gunch for a million flies

It is as if the million souls have returned
To teach him what at lifetime he never had learnt.

Babs Schmidt



Letter from Comiso

What have women got to do with Comiso?

It seems like yesterday when I read in the papers that they wanted to put Cruise at Comiso. We were at the seaside; it was at the end of September about a year ago. The news evoked a wave of emotions - anger, fear and the immediate desire to do something. So myself and another women from MLD (women's liberation movement) of Catania launched an appeal to all women to mobilise on the subject of peace. Our appeal is straight away taken up by Co-ordinamento per l'autodeterminazione della donna di Catania of which we are also members, and reaches even Milan.

It's the first demonstration in Comiso. We are carrying a beautiful sky blue banner with 'Women of Sicily for Disarmament' written on it. It's an ambitious project or maybe just a wish to find other women with us. At the second demonstration we go to Comiso under our own banner of the Co-ordinamento, knowing we are there and that we are along. The aggregation of Sicilian women didn't happen, maybe we haven't even wanted to ask ourselves why. In June in Rome against Reagan - a few of us go as a personal decision. We don't talk about peace, we're going through a difficult period.

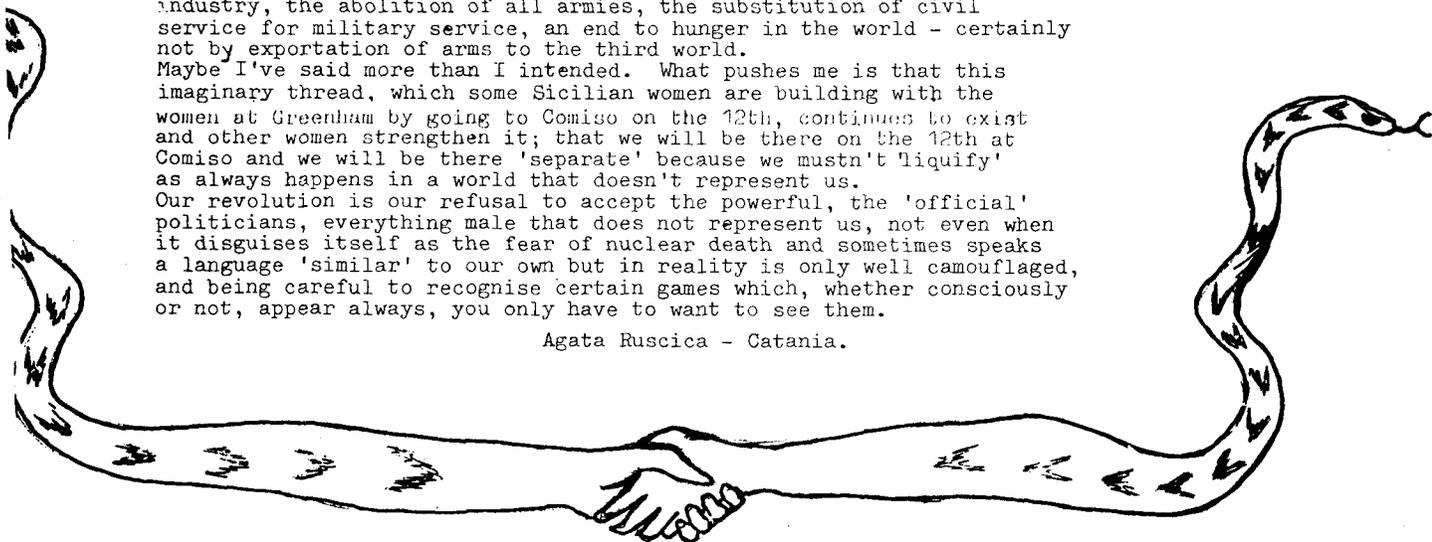
Then summer comes and takes us away, everyone following the thread of their own life. Many of us are together in Adelfia camp (Scoglitti) not far from the International Camp at Comiso but none of us feels the need to go there.

In Autumn I meet various women from the US and England and they're going to Comiso and I find I have to virtually justify why I'm not interested in Peace. Speaking with these women makes me confront the problem and understand why I've put aside all of this....the drop which makes the vase overflow(!) came with the arrival of 2 women from Greenham Common camp. One is a photographer and brings slides with her of the camp. At the same time I receive a message from Greenham Common; it's a living message, speaking a language of women in which I find myself completely. At this moment I must and want to take up the issue of peace again and understand why I had put it aside. I think again about the demonstration at Comiso and understand that there were a lot of us, I still had the sensation of losing myself in a mass of people in which everything for which I've struggled was completely obscured. The slogans we shouted are covered by the megaphones of organisations which 'vomited' words and little songs. Not to mention the 'very violent' slogans of the 'non-violent' pacifists. But it's not only this, by now known to those who've participated in marches for many years. For me it was the obscuring of the contradiction of man-woman. It was as if everything for which I've struggled and the 'separatism' of my form of struggle and of living, was being taken over by the 'male world' and they were calling me back into line. At this point with the fear of being swallowed up another time and of seeing all the struggles of the last 10 years being nullified, I said no, just in order to survive.

But then the women from Greenham arrive with their strength and their will to work 'separately'. They were like a vital lymph for me. And so a desire grew to organise something with women only that would be concrete and visible at Comiso. From this came the idea of the sit-in of Dec 12th organised by the Co-ordinamento in support of the international women's demonstration at Greenham. Today I know that I want to take up again the issue of peace, starting from our own viewpoints, analysing the refusal of maternity as we wrote in our first document. But I want to go further. I want to ask for the immediate dismantlement of all nuclear bases, the reconversion of the war industry to peace industry, the abolition of all armies, the substitution of civil service for military service, an end to hunger in the world - certainly not by exportation of arms to the third world.

Maybe I've said more than I intended. What pushes me is that this imaginary thread, which some Sicilian women are building with the women at Greenham by going to Comiso on the 12th, continues to exist and other women strengthen it; that we will be there on the 12th at Comiso and we will be there 'separate' because we mustn't 'liquify' as always happens in a world that doesn't represent us. Our revolution is our refusal to accept the powerful, the 'official' politicians, everything male that does not represent us, not even when it disguises itself as the fear of nuclear death and sometimes speaks a language 'similar' to our own but in reality is only well camouflaged, and being careful to recognise certain games which, whether consciously or not, appear always, you only have to want to see them.

Agata Ruscica - Catania.





Katrina

NON-VIOLENCE AND DIRECT ACTION

This is one woman's view of non-violence. Ask all the other women at or involved with the Women's Peace Camp and you would get many different versions.

To me, non-violence is not just about the way we as women approach direct action. We cannot 'fight' violence with violence; the end and the means must be the same to achieve Peace without Bloodshed. So many times groups and movements involved in political and social change have resorted to violence, usually in frustration. This time we must get it right. If it isn't right this time we may not get another chance.

In our everyday life, conflict in some form or another is inevitable. The way in which our society is structured dictates the conflicts and frustration within it. The way we, and in turn governments, resolve and respond to conflict is crucial: we need new tools to deal with situations.

For centuries the way that men have participated willingly in ritual blood-letting ceremonies called wars are now unacceptable. Military generals, governments and out-dated laws - which permit and encourage the acceptability of death, killing and war - must end. 'Winning' and 'losing' have lost their meaning on a world where nuclear weapons are capable of 'overkill'. As women, we have remained silenced for too long, silenced by the argument of defence - the balance has been tipped and at last we see the ultimate insult to our intellect: 'nuclear weapons'.

Women are no longer giving their silent consent to wars. Generation after generation of sons and daughters have, and are still being, killed, innocently and willingly.

As women we have the power to change the next generation. We will need every scrap of strength and determination to stop the rot of indifference and apathy that still encourages little boys to play with war toys and believe that 'might is right'.

Angry? Of course we are angry, like the earth if she could speak in words would tell us.

But our anger is compassionate - still. We do not want to kill because of it. We are all just realising that we have the responsibility for the Earth and our species' survival and because of this women from all over the world are saying NO MORE - WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH.

Non-violent direct action

The non-violent direct action that we use shows us many things. It shows us we do not need 'superhuman' courage or physical strength, but intelligence in the true meaning of the word. It shows authorities/governments that we no longer have respect for their barbaric values and ways of resolving conflict, and it also shows us that as women we can be effective when we trust each other and our survival instinct.

Very often 'symbolic' actions have been sneered at because they do not achieve complete immobility or destruction of 'property'. I think to be effective we must take responsibility and make our anger symbolic - if we rid ourselves of symbolism we certainly risk violence and potentially the very thing we were aiming to replace.

'Non-violent' or 'Pacifist' men sometimes ask me - 'Why is it Women's non-violent direct action?' My answer is usually that women can be more effective, that we cannot be provoked as easily as men, and that the military and the police cannot remain credible if publicly they used mass violence on women and children who were being non-violent.

These are not the only reasons. Women have more of a vested interest in Peace. Our children need a future! As women we know what oppression is - and we know what society offers us in return for cooperation.

Many women say 'I cannot be active because I have other commitments' - this is the way our society keeps us quiet. We cannot protest too loudly because of repercussions and conflicts in our personal lives. We appear to be damned if we do or don't. As women we must say NO MORE. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE ANY MORE.

*W.O.
mm*

NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION TRAINING

Below is a list of women to contact to arrange NVDA training workshops. Non-violence forms the basis of every action we take to promote peace, so it is important to have an understanding of NVDA. By taking direct action non-violently we are working on a different level from the authorities - and the effect of this is very confusing for them since they are only trained to respond to aggression with aggression. And even in a situation where one is passively resisting, the authorities still respond aggressively with riot suppressive tactics. How do we deal with this?

If a violent confrontation arose, they would be bound to win with the extensive technology and resources available to them: it also means we are acknowledging their power. But power is not a personal quality that a minority possess - it is something we give by compliance and co-operation. Through NVDA we are no longer co-operating ... we are reclaiming the power we have vested in others and which they are abusing.

Sorry! ... the list isn't available as we go to press, so if you want more info, send a s.a.e. to:

NVDA Training Workshops
7 White Hill,
Ecchinswell,
Newbury, Berks.

OR

NVDA Training Workshops
1 Crowland Terrace,
Islington,
London, N1.

Pam Isherwood



Peace Camps News

A WALK FOR LIFE



A group of 8 Peace Campers have been loaned a house in London to organise a "Walk for Life"....from Faslane to Greenham Common. We see the walk more as a moving peace camp, than a body of people marching through the country. A peace camp is open to anyone at all times...and incorporates the spirit of living in Peace, with all the problems and wonderful moments that it entails. As people live together, walk together...they learn to trust and gain energy, ideas.....

The momentum of the walk gives people confidence in their own potential for bringing peace.

We have planned the route through Glasgow, Edinburgh, and to big Midlands cities- as well as small villages. Any centre of population, however small is a possible centre for peace actions. As we travel, we hope jugglers, musicians, artists, poets will emerge from people who previously felt themselves not to be creative. Peace is about being at peace with yourself, realising the full feeling will convey itself to others.

INTERESTED? WANT MORE DETAILS? Please send a S.A.E. to....
31 Ickburgh Road, Clapton, E5. Phone.. 01 806 4615.

Upper Heyford
Have 50T more support and good press since the watertower occupation. 3 people stayed there for 5 days. They are planning a 4-day blockade at the end of May ... need support for this, visits, contributions, etc.

Faslane
On 15th Jan 17 people went over the fence and onto a gun tower.
March 6th - Women's Day of Action
March 20th - Festival
March 21st - Blockade
April 2-4 - Easter action, possible fence decoration

Holyloch
Set up on Jan 29th ... USAF base of Polaris submarine.

Lossiemouth - Jan. 29th

We woke up early on the morning of our action to be confronted by strong winds cold and rain, but we were in good spirits and by 10.30am (half an hour before the walk through Lossie was due to start) about 40 people had turned up. 250 people set off at 11am. All along the route people waved and took photographs. Quite a few joined in on the way and walked to the base.

We had planned to blockade the main gate, but the police had already done it with rolls of barbed wire!

So instead we linked hands and sang for a while, as an R.A.F. helicopter took photos from above. Some people decided to walk around the perimeter....stopping at each gate.

The day was a great success for us.. We got a lot of local support...which is what we were aiming for. The main purpose of this camp is to promote discussion in an area which previously had no reason to consider the issues (or rather they only saw one side of the story from the R.A.F.)

Sheffield Peace Centre

On 10th Jan. some people squatted a building in Sheffield City Centre, which they are converting into a Peace Centre....where people can get info. on peace related issues. There is a large hall which can be used for discussion groups, films etc. and rooms which will eventually be made in a creche, library, cafe.

However....local CND say they cannot support this action because they say squatting is illegal ... although they support the peace camps squatting the land! Also Sheffield Council have cut their electricity and are threatening to evict them despite their claim of supporting the peace movement and being anti-nuclear.

You could show support by writing to the peace centre with a message of solidarity, Sheffield CND and the city council, letting them know that you support the peace centre. Please visit and offer help if you can.

Burtonwood Peace Camp

Doing ongoing once a week vigil in the marketplace. March 7th first anniversary of camp ... planning a Festival from March 5th to 7th.

Women's Peace Camp
Outside Main Gate
RAF Greenham Common
Newbury, Berks.
Ph: (0635) 298512

The BURTONWOOD People's Peace Camp, opposite USAF living quarters, Sycamore Lane, Great Sankey, near Warrington, Cheshire. Telephone: 'Kim' on Penketh (092 572) 6807.

Burtonwood is an American supply depot which is thought to maintain a complete set of stores for one division. The campers believe that means everything from tea bags and chewing gum to nuclear missiles. It would also include 'atomic demolition munitions' - which are nuclear mines in everyday language.

The CAPENHURST Women's Peace Camp (near Chester), outside BNFL, Capenhurst Village, near Chester. Telephone Barbara Doris on Liverpool (051) 336 3334. NB They may be moving elsewhere in late February, early March - they moved to Capenhurst last year from an RAF base in Lincolnshire. A sort of roving camp!

Capenhurst is a uranium enrichment plant run by British Nuclear Fuels. It produces enriched uranium (uranium 235) which can be used for nuclear warheads and bombs and for nuclear submarine reactors. (Quick bit of physics: uranium comes in two sorts of isotopes, called uranium 235 and uranium 238. The 238 type is not much use. In naturally occurring uranium about 0.7% or 7 parts in a thousand are the useful 235 type. For nuclear weapons, you need uranium which has been "enriched", that is uranium where a much greater percentage is the 235 type. The exact figure for weapons is top secret, but is thought to be about 90% enriched)

The DAW'S HILL Peace Camp, c/o Melanie Jones, 14 Roberts Ride, Haselmere, nr High Wycombe. Telephone Melanie Jones on High Wycombe (0494) 716229.

Daws Hill is near the proposed underground bunker which will become the standby headquarters for US forces in Europe. It is already equipped with a complete computer control centre for Cruise missiles.

The FASLANE Peace Camp, below St Andrew's School, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. Telephone Iain MacDonald on Garelochhead (0436) 820719.

The base for the nuclear Polaris submarines is at Faslane and nuclear weapons are thought to be stored nearby.

The LAKENHEATH Peace Camp, Families Against the Bomb Peace Camp, c/o Village Post Office, Lakenheath, Suffolk. Telephone Mandy Fry on Mildenhall (0638) 716556.

Lakenheath is a big American air force base which peace campers believe almost certainly keeps nuclear weapons.

The LOSSIEMOUTH Peace Camp, outside RAF Lossiemouth, Hopeman Road, Lossiemouth, Morayshire. Telephone Peter MacDonald on Hopeman (0343) 830350.

Lossiemouth is a Royal Air Force nuclear arms base.

The HAP HILL Peace Camp, c/o Wycombe Peace Council, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. Telephone Steve Panyal on High Wycombe (0494) 285821.

This is the second camp in High Wycombe (the other is the Daw's Hill camp). This camp is outside the National Trust land where a new control centre for British and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) Air Forces is being built.

The MOLESWORTH People's Peace Camp, outside Molesworth Air Base, Old Weston Road, Brington, near Huntingdon, Cambs. Telephone Helen Lowe on Clopton (08015) 257.

Molesworth is the second place in Britain (after Greenham Common) where the new nuclear Cruise missiles are due to be based.

The UPPER HEYFORD Peace Camp, Portway, Camp Road, Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. Telephone Steve Chasey on Steeple Aston (0869) 40321.

Upper Heyford is a large American air base where nuclear bomb carrying planes are kept. It is also an important communications centre. Near the peace camp some people are occupying a field wanted for extensions to the base. Their address is '30 acre field', Village Farm, Summertown, Oxon.

The web is growing wider

In Koongarra, in the Northern Territory of Australia, a family of 3 women and their brother, are the last people from a group of aboriginal landowners of this area who are continuing to hold out against the Denison Mining Co. Denison Mining are trying to force them off their land in order to start uranium mining. The area at Koongarra, which has one of the highest rainfalls in the world, is an enclave in a national park, upstream of a wildlife sanctuary. Any contamination there - which is inevitable with the level of rainfall - threatens the survival not only of the aboriginal people, but also the most important refuge for aquatic wild life in the Northern Territory. PLEASE, PLEASE send telegrams, messages of support to these amazing people ... To 'The Alderson Family, c/o Central Land Council, 75 Hartley St, Alice Springs, N.T. 5750, Australia. Also write/put pressure on the Aust. Govt in Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.

sssnake links with Australia

... FANG (Feminists Against Nuclear Energy) which only started 4 weeks before Dec. 12, (a US army installation in Sth Australia) to demonstrate 100 women at Smithfield camp and have formed a direct action group other at Smithfield of setting up a peace camp ... these women ... the contact links with FANG, 291 Morphet St, Adelaide Sth Aust. (PS. they are also setting it together for a linked Int. Day of Action for Disarmament on May 24th...) ... the Pacific ... all over Europe ...

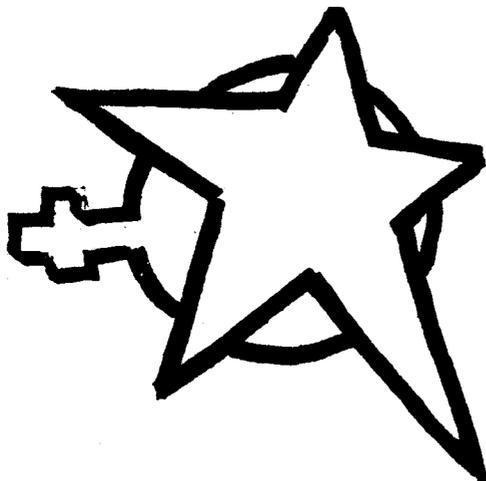
THE SILO TRIAL - FEB 15-16

This is part of the evidence given in defence by Rosalie Bertell at the Newbury Mag. Court on Feb. 16th for the trial of the 44 women who entered the USAF base on Jan. 1st and climbed onto the silos..... "I think we are dealing with a species death process and it might be faster or slow, but in trying to even admit that it is happening society is going to have to go through the same stages that the individual has to go through in trying to understand that you have cancer or some other death dealing illness. I am basing what I say on the work of Elizabeth Kubler Ross, who identifies dying in four stages: "The first stage is a denial stage where when you try to tell a person they have cancer they deny it and suppress it...act as if they didn't hear what you said. This is probably right now the dominant response to the nuclear issue in our society... "The second stage is rage or outrage, or terrible frustration and helplessness....disbelief but also belief at the same time. Many in the peace movement have reached this stage ... you just suddenly think 'well maybe there won't be any more apple blossoms'. "The third stage is a partial acceptance of the truth and beginning to deal with it a little bit - it is more of a bargaining stage where you do a little bit but not a lot ... like passing out leaflets or joining a study group. It's action but it's ineffective - it's not really dealing with it. "The fourth stage is where the full gravity of the illness is realised and a wholehearted effort is made to deal with it. It is the stage where you are willing to sit with the dying or the grieving earth, where there is no way you can forget that this process is going on....I would see the women at Greenham as women who have touched down on the reality. They are willing and they are forced to put all their time and energy into it. They don't want to flap around and do a lot of action and be worn out and have it do no good. So it's got to be effective and meaningful action. I think that out of the agonising, the talking and searching for ways to reach the consciousness of other people, we have to make it visible, make it something they can deal with - then maybe we can restore health."

Some Suggestions for Supportive Actions

- * Women organise groups of women to picket prisons where women have been sent after the trials.
- * Write to your local MP suggesting he opposes the changing of the bylaws by Newbury Council which will make it easier for them to evict peace camps. Suggest she/he adds her/his name to the motion to the House of Commons initiated by John Tilley MP opposing revision of the bylaws.
- * Refocus the campaign to your own local military installations. Take smaller, consistent actions ... use your wonderfully creative imaginations ... keep up the pressure!
- * Send a chain letter to women suggesting they write a sympathy letter to companies supplying military bases - list of companies in 'Peace News', 15 Oct. 1982.
- * Write to NFZ councils urging them to black these companies, e.g. TARMAC.
- * March 8th - International Women's Day - put your signature on the form below, cut it out and send it to Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
- * May 24th - International Women's Day of Action for Disarmament - build local support for 1 day women's national strike through trade unions and women's groups. Research local companies to approach women there; organise pickets. (See list of regional contacts in this newsletter)
- * 'Snakes & Ladders' - women research snake myths - integrate these into actions in any form, e.g. art, drama, ritual.
- * WOMEN COME TO GREENHAM - support stay, vigils at the construction gates.

FROM: GREENHAM COMMON
WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP

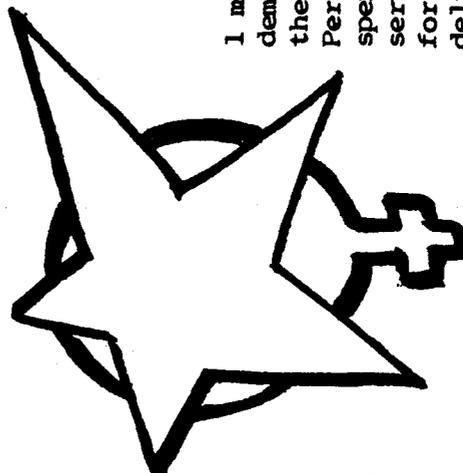


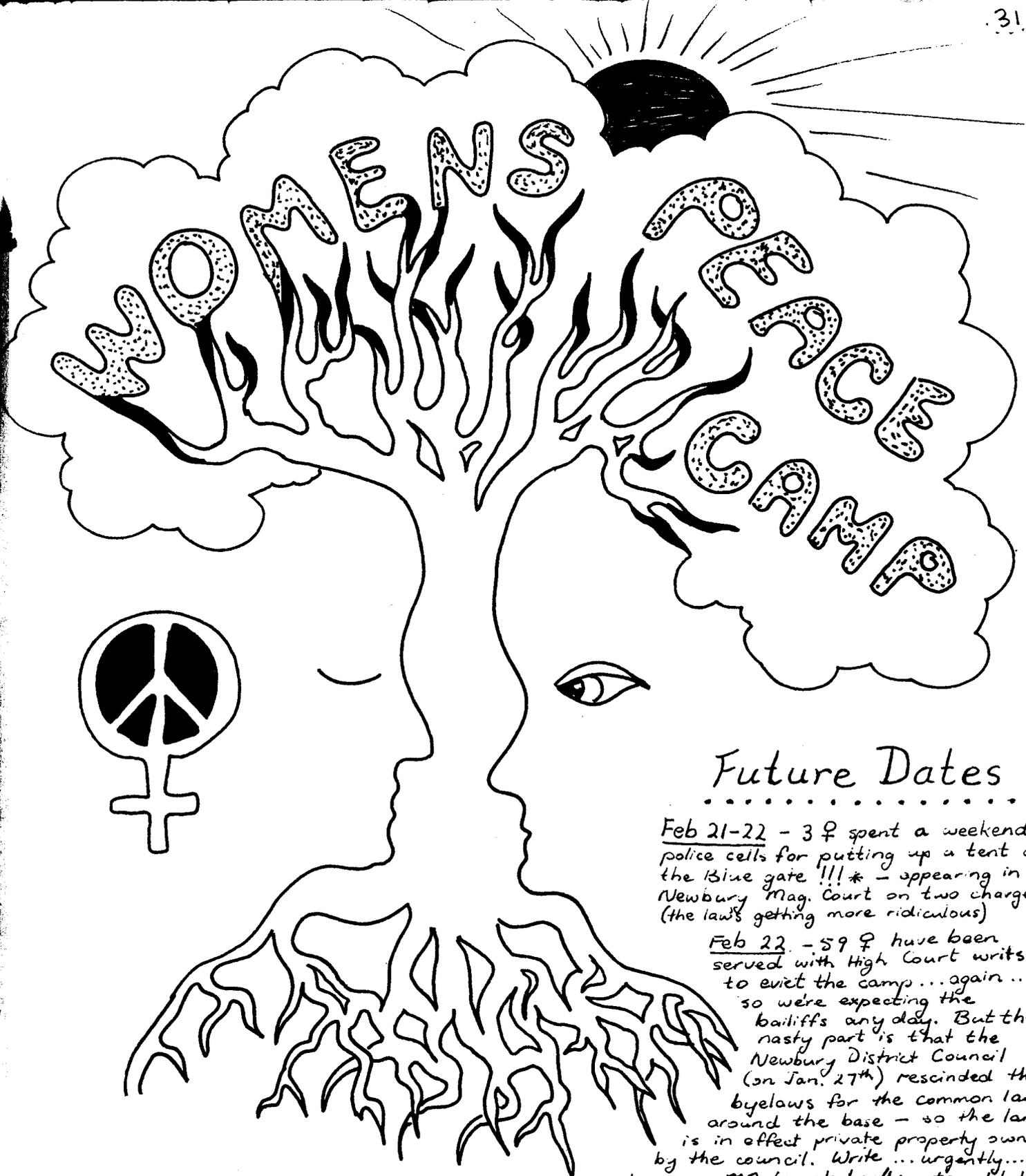
STOP THE ARMS RACE : STAR
Women's International
Demonstration for
Disarmament & Development
Brussels - 8.3.83

1 million signatures of US citizens demanding a halt in the arms race - the cancellation of Trident, Cruise & Pershing II programmes, cuts in military spending, diversion of funds to human services, ban on arms sales, & support for disarmament negotiations - will be delivered to NATO headquarters in

Brussels 8th March International Womens Day. If you would like your signature to be added to those of the US citizens, please sign this card and send to: WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM, STAR Campaign, 29 Great James Street, London WC1N 3ES. Donations for the STAR Campaign & the events in Brussels, very gratefully received.

Signed.





Future Dates

Feb 21-22 - 3 ♀ spent a weekend in police cells for putting up a tent at the Blue gate !!! * - appearing in Newbury Mag. Court on two charges... (the law's getting more ridiculous)

Feb 22 - 59 ♀ have been served with High Court writs to evict the camp... again... so we're expecting the bailiffs any day. But the nasty part is that the Newbury District Council (on Jan. 27th) rescinded the byelaws for the common land around the base - so the land is in effect private property owned by the council. Write ...urgently... to your MP to get her/him to add their signature to the motion opposing the proposed new byelaws. Jo Richardson MP will point them to the right piece of paper.

Feb 28 - 13 ♀ - Newbury Mag. Court. Obstruction of the highway charges for blockading the works gate trying to slow down work.

March/April ~ Snakes and Ladders:

March 8 - International ♀ Day (Greenham * Comiso) ^{Brussels}

March 31 - ♀ blockading Greenham (ph: Christine, CND)

April 1 - Human chain from Greenham (♀) → Aldermaston → Burghfield.

March - 30 ♀ - Newbury Mag. Court. Obstruction charges for blockading gates on Heseltine's visit.

May 24 - International ♀ Day of Action for ~ Disarmament ~

If you can afford it, please make a photocopy of this newsletter and give it to a friend.

Out of the darkness comes the fear of what's to come
Out of the darkness comes the dread of what's undone
Out of the darkness comes the hope that we can run
Out of the darkness comes the knowledge of the sun

Out of the darkness comes the fear of the unknown
Out of the darkness comes the dread of bleaching bone
Out of the darkness comes the hope we are not alone
Out of the darkness comes the flowers that we have sown

Out of the darkness comes the fear, revenge and hate
Out of the darkness comes the dread of a different fate
Out of the darkness comes the hope it's not too late
Out of the darkness comes the songs that we create

Darkness is the place of birth
Darkness is the womb
Darkness is the place of rest
Darkness is the tomb

Death belongs to life
Half of day is night
The end won't come in darkness
But in a blinding flash of light