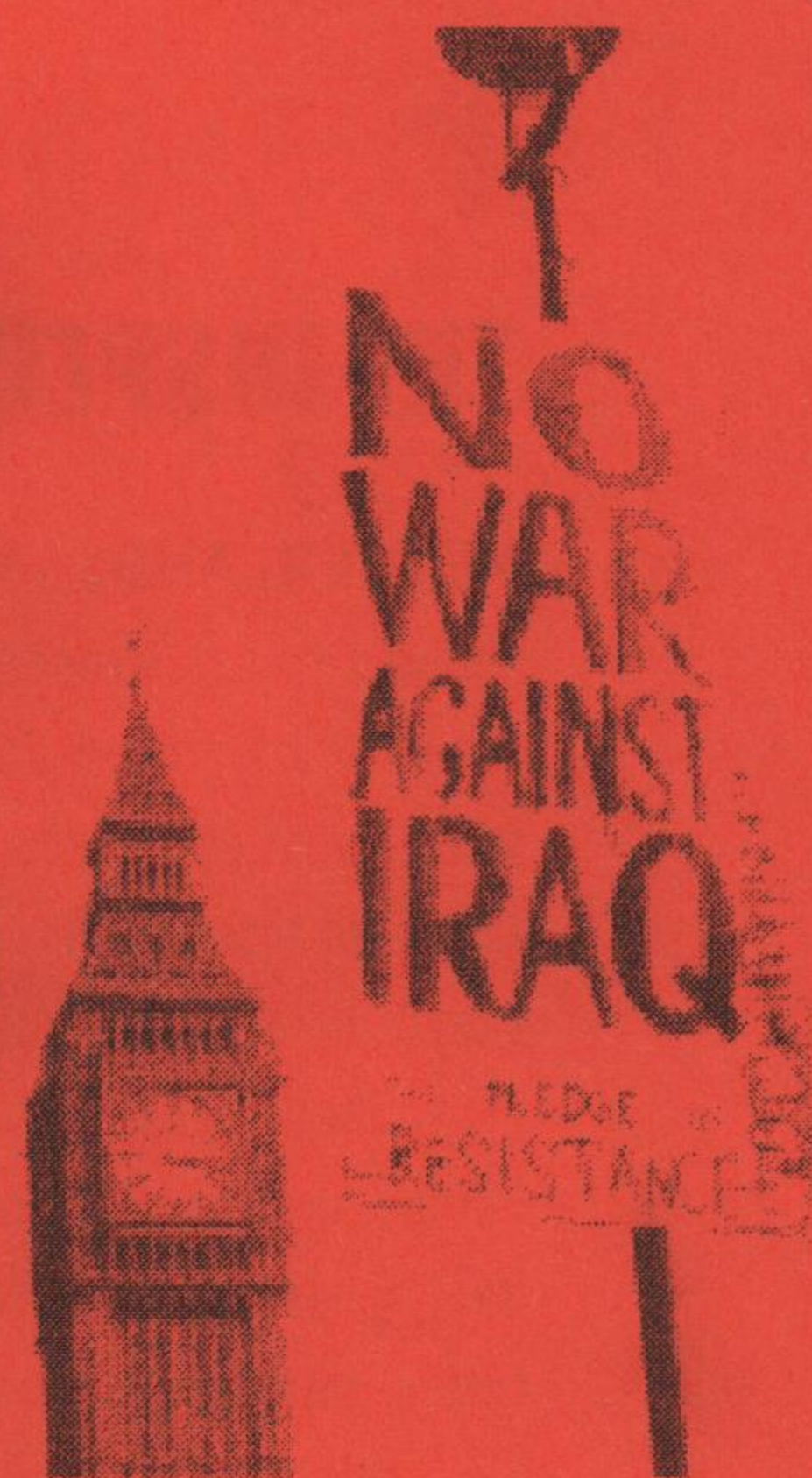


PLEDGE

Newsletter of The Pledge of Resistance No. 5

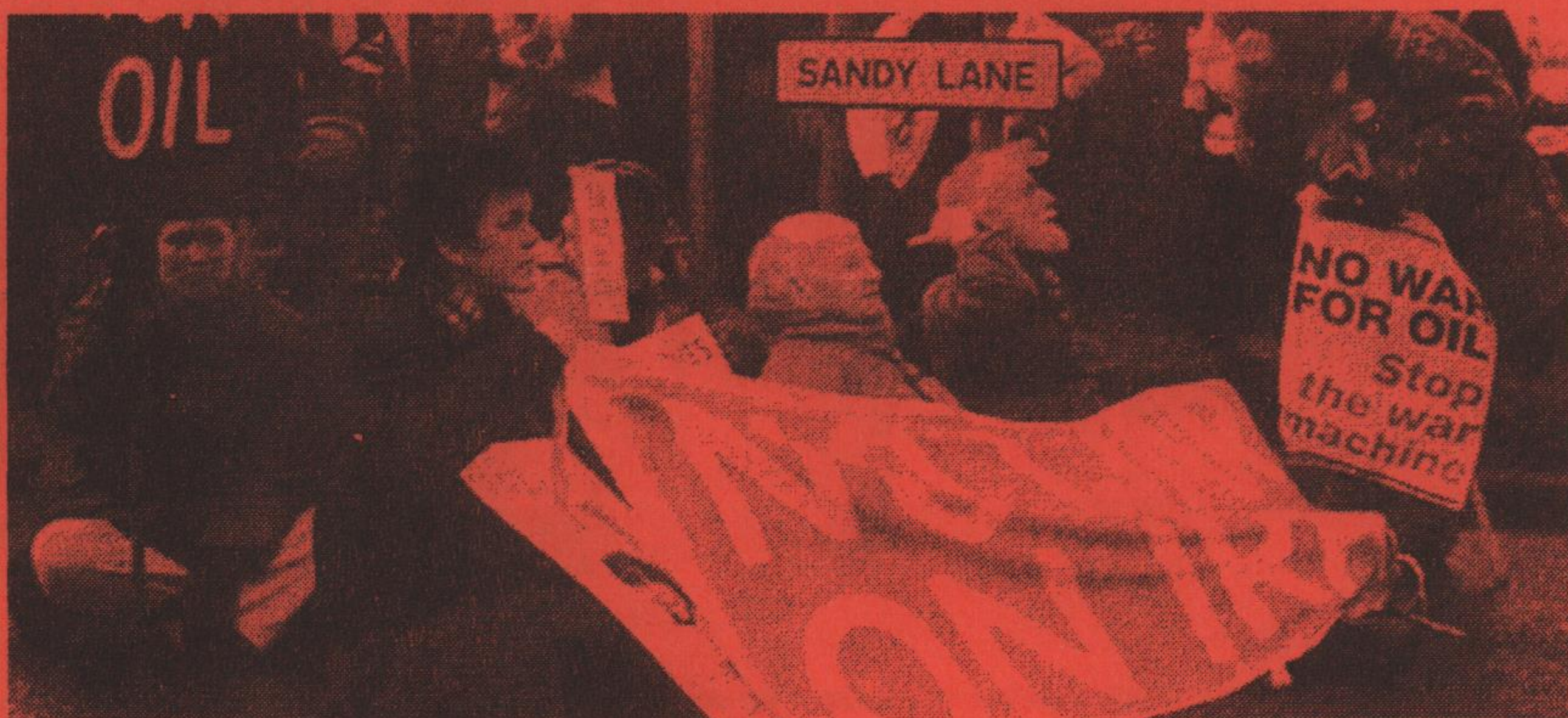
February 2003

www.justicenotvengeance.org



NORTHWOOD BLOCKED!

Initial sit-down, en route. Photo: riotgibbon



On Sun. 19 Dec., following a day of preparation, over 300 protestors blocked the main gate of the nerve centre of the British war effort for three hours. Over 60 people were arrested for nonviolent resistance, winning wide press and broadcast coverage.

HMS Warrior, the home of the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood, north-west London, will be the command centre for British forces deployed in any US-led invasion of Iraq.

The police imposed section 12 of the Public Order Act, routing the procession up to the main gates around the back roads.

Despite this intimidation, marchers refused to obey when the police directed us behind barriers, sitting down in the road until we were allowed to walk along the main road.

The police had blocked off the main road leading up to the main gate, so that it looked as if we would be stuck 100 yards away from the gates. However, after five minutes the police caved in, allowing us through to occupy the

road in front of the main gate.

It was a glorious moment, and the skies parted and the sun shone through. Cheered by music from a samba band and the wonderful Rinky-Dink, we held the front gate from 1pm until 3.15, when police came in and arrested anyone refusing to move from the road. It took over an hour for them to arrest everyone!

At one point there was a lock-on by four women at the other gate, closing the base.

Congratulations to the D10 group, ARROW, **voices uk** and everyone who came for an excellent weekend of resistance.

Other events at Northwood included Operation Internal Look, a defiant breach of the Official Secrets Act, a multi-faith service at the base gates, the Oxford Pledgers' 'War is Pants' lock-on (which featured in the *Guardian*), and various individual actions.

Court cases to follow. Please keep an eye on www.j-n-v.org for dates—court support much appreciated.

NEXT BIG THING

FEBRUARY 15 MASS SIT-DOWN

On 15 Feb. London will see the biggest anti-war demonstration for decades. ARROW has called for groups and activists coming to London to follow the national march and rally with the biggest anti-war sit-down for decades.

Participants in the sit-down—which is supported by National CND, Cambridge Students against the War, and others, including local Stop The War groups—will gather in Green Park, near Green Park tube, after 5pm, when the rally finishes.

If you or your group would like to sponsor the sit-down, please email info@justicenotvengeance.org or phone 0845 458 2564. Please make sure your travel arrangements for returning home are flexible!

More info and ideas: 0845 458 2564
www.j-n-v.org

**5000
HAVE SIGNED
THE PLEDGE**

**Sign online at
www-j-n-v.org**

THE INSPECTORS!

NETHERLANDS: On 18 Jan., about one hundred civilian weapons inspectors gained access to the grounds of Volkel military air base in the south east of the Netherlands. It is suspected that weapons of mass destruction are stored there under US supervision.

The weapons inspectors—from all over Europe, including Finland, Belgium, and the UK—gained access in several places at once by cutting through the perimeter fence.

The weapons inspections have been initiated by a new anti-war coalition formed by more than 200 Dutch organisations.

If Iraq has to openly show their weapons and their plans, so should the US, and all governments supporting US claims and policy, says the Dutch Anti New War group.

CANADA: Eight activists were arrested on 21 Jan. trying to conduct a Citizens Weapons Inspection at an arms factory in Canada.

About 60 people gathered in minus 20 degree weather at a major military manufacturer to celebrate Martin Luther King Day and to nonviolently resist Canada's "contribution" to the ongoing war against the people of Iraq.

After readings from Martin Luther King, Jr., and about the devastating consequences of war and sanctions against the people of Iraq, and how these were directly related to the manufacture of weapons systems at Northrop Grumman Canada, members of the citizens weapons inspection team walked onto the property, surprising police officers.

(Members of the group will go to War Minister John McCallum's office on 27 Jan., to hand in peace zucchinis [courgettes], demanding that Canada drop zukes, not nukes, and build homes, not bombs. This will be followed on 14 Feb., with a mass silent sit-in at the War Dept. in Ottawa.)

FAIRFORD: After a 250-strong demo called by Gloucestershire Weapons Inspectors, there were at least two entries on 14 Dec.

In one incident, around 10-15 activists scattered inside the base, climbing up onto tall metal containers and finally being apprehended by police. No arrests.

Citizens' Weapons Inspectors of the World, UNITE! You have nothing to lose but your white overalls!

US PLEDGE

There is a Pledge of Resistance in the US as well—but it is only for groups, not for individuals. It is also more restrictive in the conditions it imposes on participants (it bans property damage, unlike the UK Pledge).

In the UK, the Pledge says only, 'All actions carried out in connection with the Pledge should be within the spirit of nonviolence: no action should harm or dehumanize any other person. This is fundamental to the Pledge.'

The US Pledge is sponsored by American Friends Service Committee, Education for Peace in Iraq Center, Fellowship of Reconciliation (US), Global Exchange, Interfaith Network of Concern for the People in Iraq, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, National Network to End the War Against Iraq, National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, Nonviolence International, Not In Our Name, Pax Christi USA, Peace Action, Resource Center for Nonviolence, Voices in the Wilderness US, Veterans for Peace, War Resisters League and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (For UK Pledge sponsors see p. 4)

40,000 people, including Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, David Byrne, and a 9/11 rescue worker, gathered in Central Park, New York, on 6 Oct. 2002 to sign the US Pledge.

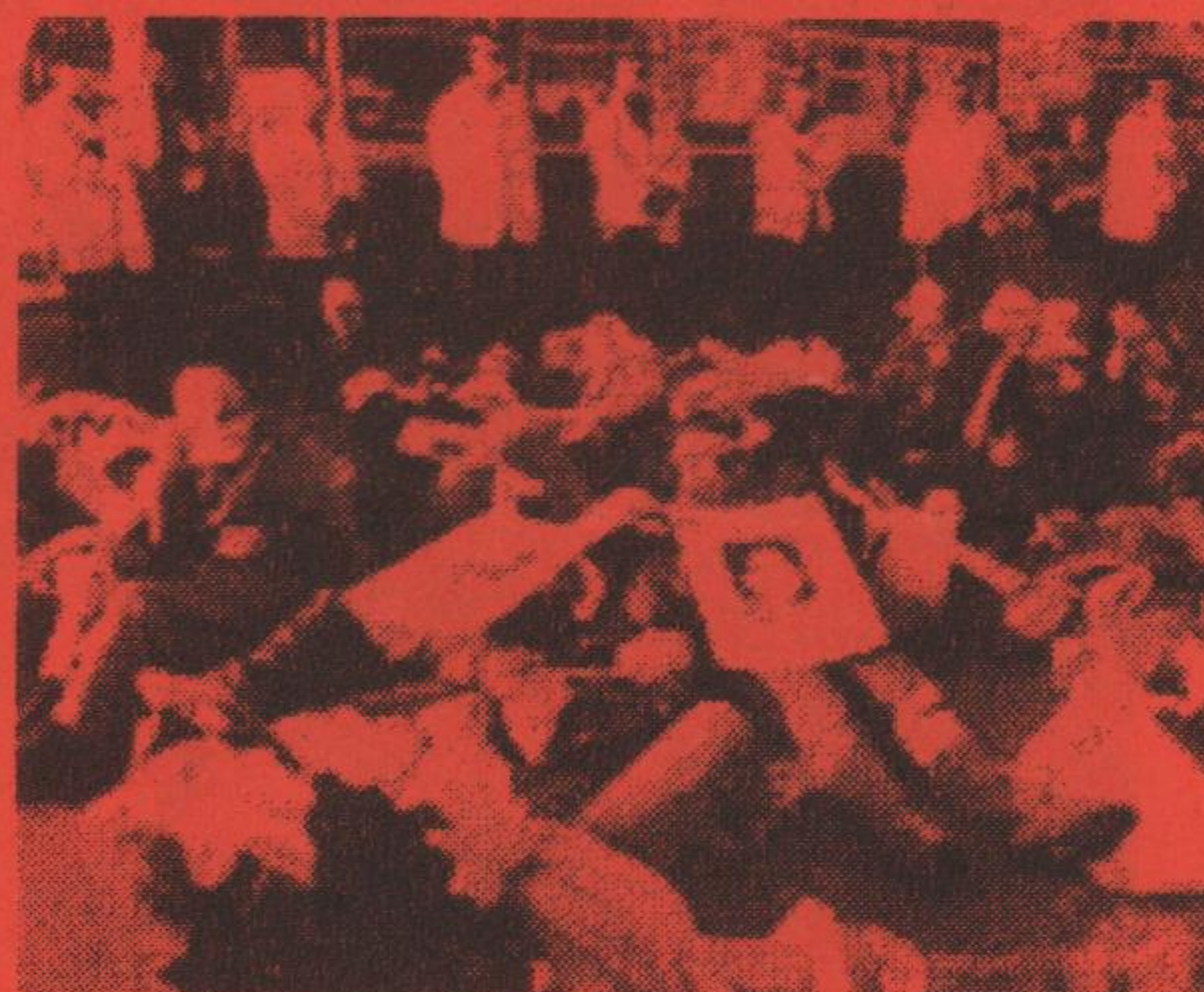
The US Pledge site <www.peacepledge.org/> has the story of the Central America solidarity movement's Pledge of Resistance in 1980s.

Some ideas

Some ideas for local Pledge-related action before war takes place: die-ins at war memorials or in shopping areas; banner hangs from prominent buildings; occupations of MP's offices; blockades of nearby Iraq-related bases; invasion of recruiting offices/TA premises/other military sites; lock-ons on entrances to any of the above; sit-down protests at any of the above; pouring real or fake blood on any of the above (ARROW's fake blood recipe soon on <www.j-n-v.org>).

If you are organising civil disobedience for the first time, it's good to have a group to do it with, and to do some nonviolent direct action preparation with a trainer (perhaps from the Quaker organisation Turning the Tide, 020 7663 1064, <www.turning-the-tide.org/>).

There are some good resources listed below; please do use the media guide, it's readable and helps make protest more effective.



Warzone Whitehall, 2 Dec. Photo: Jack Hill

RESOURCES FOR RESISTERS

Legal Briefings for Activists

The Activists' Legal Project has produced some excellent briefings on possible charges for nonviolent civil disobedience, police arrest procedures, and how to run a legal support group (ESSENTIAL if you are expecting arrests).

Briefings are available from **voices** 0845 458 2564 (local rate) or from the ALP website: <www.activistslegalproject.org.uk>

Pledge Postcard

A postcard version of the Pledge form is now available from the ARROW office. Please use the tear-off slip below to order copies.

Anti-War Book *War Plan Iraq*

By Milan Rai. George Monbiot says: 'The clearest and most persuasive explanation of the reasons not to go to war with Iraq anyone could wish for.' £11.80 inc. p&p ('ARROW Publications') 29 Gensing Rd, St Leonards on Sea, TN 38 0HE.

Monbiot Media Guide

Good press work can make an action 100 times more effective. George Monbiot has written a brief, readable and all-round excellent guide for activists doing media work. Pamphlet costs £1.50 inc. p&p from **voices**, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX, or read it online at <www.antenna.nl/eyfa/resources/media.htm>

Other Web-based Resources

Some accessible, encouraging and just plain practical fruits of a long activist career can be found at <www.starhawk.org>. Good bits include 'How To Plan An Action' and materials for people organising preparation sessions. Wise reflections on tactics/strategy also.

Brilliant stuff on civil disobedience can also be found at the New York ACT-UP site <www.actupny.org>, and the Genetix Snowball site <www.fraw.org.uk/gs/>.

Portsmouth

Rosy Bremer writes: On the day that HMS Ark Royal was due to depart for the Gulf, three activists from the Portsmouth area walked through the main gate into the naval base in an attempt to board the Ark Royal.

After being chunked out of the base, we blockaded traffic entering the base for an hour, again without arrest. Then we sat down with an anti-war banner in the entrance to the visitors' area. Les Gibbons started making a phone call, a policeman tried to wrench his mobile away; Les was arrested for being in a prohibited area.

Lakenheath

On 15 Dec., Cambridge Students Against the War civilian weapons inspectors entered nearby air base USAF Lakenheath—a nuclear-armed US air base used to bomb Iraq in 1991 and subsequently. They were congratulated by a Parliamentary Early Day Motion 435 lodged by Harry Cohen MP!

No Arms Train!

On 8 Jan., two Scottish train drivers refused to move a freight train carrying ammunition believed to be destined for British forces being deployed in the Gulf.

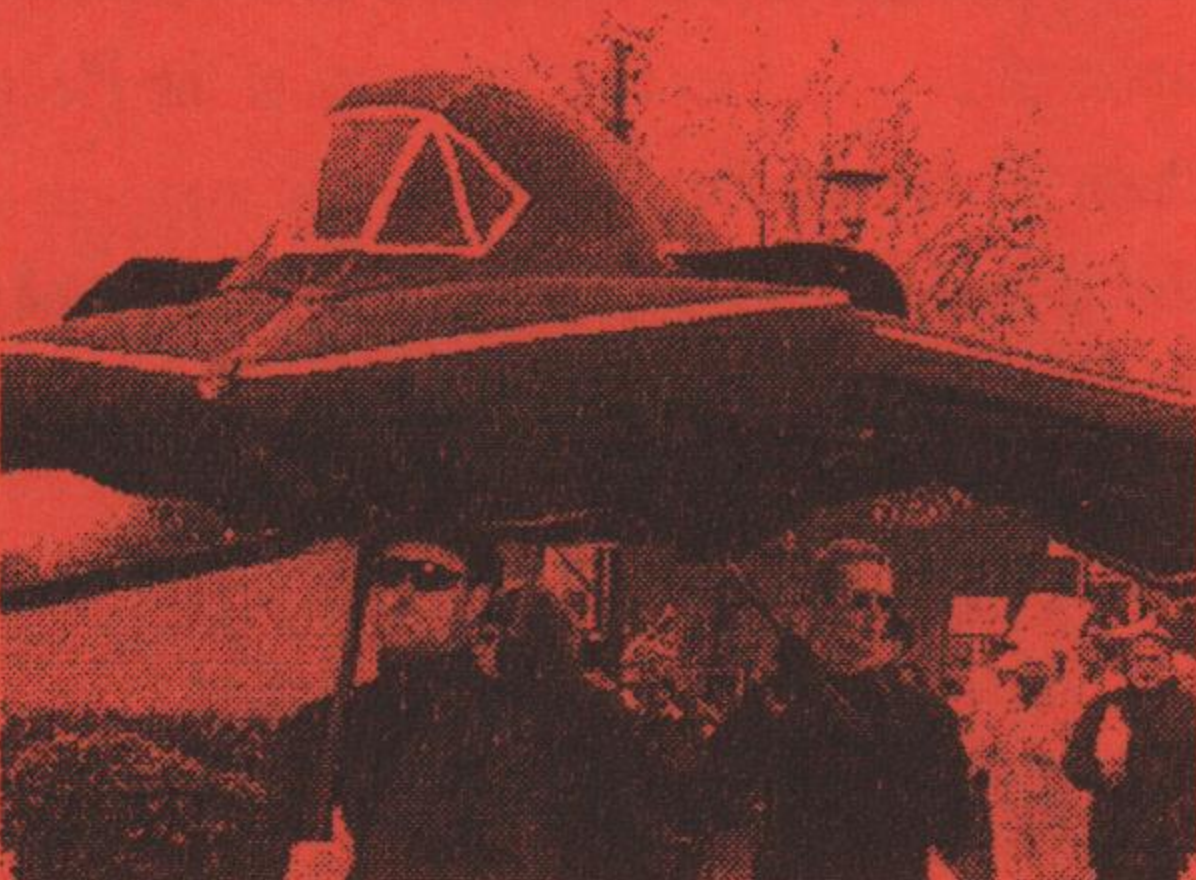
The two Motherwell-based drivers—believed to be the only train drivers trained for this line—declined to operate the train between the Glasgow area and the Glen Douglas base on Scotland's west coast, Europe's largest NATO weapons store.

Please report your actions

<www.j-n-v.org.uk>

<www.indymedia.co.uk>

<www.schnews.org.uk>



Fairford, 14 Dec.: captured B-2 bomber

If you want to contact other local Pledgers

please call 0845 458 2564.

Cardiff

On 18 Jan. Cardiff Anarchist Network blockaded a Cardiff street. Santa Claus, a participant in the blockade, was last seen being bundled into a police van. One other arrest reported.

The blockade took place during an anti-war march through the city centre bringing the march to an abrupt halt and causing traffic chaos. Other marchers responded by holding an unplanned sit-down protest in support.

Feltwell

On 10 Jan. nine people were arrested during anti-war demonstrations at a US Air Force-run military base in Norfolk UK. Five activists were arrested *inside* USAF Feltwell, and their four-person support team was arrested *outside*—across the road from the main gate.

USAF Feltwell is part of a network of 'near-space tracking facilities', and is involved in electronic warfare and surveillance.

GATHERING

An opportunity for all Pledgers and Pledge groups to come together to plan the way forward—in London, Sat. 1 Mar., 11am-5pm. Pledge strategy, building local Pledge groups, NVDA training, 'the war situation' (with Milan Rai). Offer a workshop!

(Also time and space for planning nonviolent direct action—perhaps for the next day. Bring banners/equipment if you're up for an action.)

Gathering venue to be announced. More info 0845 458 2564 or <www.j-n-v.org>.

ENGLISH CONTACTS

There are now Pledge contacts in Birmingham (0121 449 5683), Bournemouth (01202 822 024), Brighton (hutchings@sniffout.com), Bristol (0117 9514 4744), Cambridge (0845 458 1688), Leicester (0116 247 0121), Liverpool (0151 707 9893), Manchester (0161 286 7950), Oxford (01865 794 504), Portsmouth (01329 312 553), Sheffield (0114 266 2671) and elsewhere.



Oxford Pledgers, main gate, Northwood, Sun. 19 Jan. Photo: riotgibbon

Mildenhall

On 5 Jan., fifteen anti-war protesters—from Brighton and elsewhere—were arrested on the main runway inside USAF Mildenhall. No charges were laid, but all fifteen were later released on police bail to report back in 21 days.

Mildenhall houses the U.S. Air Force's 100th Air Refuelling Wing. It is one of the biggest U.S. airbases outside the USA.

Whitehall

Warzone Whitehall, the nonviolent die-in in Whitehall on 2 Dec., initiated by **voices uk**, saw over 90 people wearing bandages and blood stains lying in the road blocking traffic, leading in the end (after over two hours of nonviolent civil disobedience) to 34 arrests.

Trials are set for 24 and 25 Jan.

STEWARDS needed for 15 Feb. action

If you are willing to take on a non-sit-down role, please contact 0845 458 2564 or email <gabriel@viwuk.freemove.co.uk>. Stewards shouldn't get arrested, but there are no absolute guarantees. Gather Charing Cross stn forecourt 11.30am under Pledge banner.

Please support ARROW!

This mail-out alone has cost ARROW over £1000. Please help us to keep on doing this work, and distributing this information—please give as generously as you can via the form overleaf.

What is the Pledge of Resistance?

The Pledge of Resistance is an attempt to oppose the threatened war on Iraq.

The Pledge is a public declaration of intent to carry out civil disobedience in the event of a major US/UK attack on Iraq (or any other country) in the course of the so-called "war on terrorism". (See tear-off slip below.)

So far over 5000 people have signed the ARROW and Scottish Pledges, including Caroline Lucas MEP.

We urge all Pledge signers to form local **affinity groups** and to hold nonviolent direct action preparation workshops. Please check the website for more info (which is coming gradually...)

The Pledge is only triggered in the event of a major military assault, but signing the Pledge now helps to put pressure on the Government and to create a network of affinity groups and individuals willing to risk arrest and trial, who can cooperate to take further **preventive** action, before the war is launched.

The Pledge was started by ARROW (Active Resistance to the Roots of War), a nonviolent direct action affinity group formed in September 1990 to oppose the Gulf War. <www.j-n-v.org>

Pledge Sponsors

Noam Chomsky, Chumbawumba, George Galloway MP, Jeremy Hardy, Caroline Lucas MEP, Adrian Mitchell, Celia Mitchell, George Monbiot, Canon Paul Oestreicher, Will Self, Hans von Sponeck (ex-UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator Iraq), Ralph Steadman, Angie Zelter. ARROW, Brighton & Hove Green Party, Women in Black (Cambridge), G. Manchester Coalition Against Sanctions and War on Iraq, London Region CND, Oxford Campaign Against War in Iraq, Mariam Appeal, Musicians Against Nuclear Arms, Nuneaton & N. Warwickshire Against the War, Oswestry Coalition for Peace, the Pacifist Party, Pax Christi, Reading Roadbusters, Scottish CND, Stop the War Coalition, Sussex Action for Peace, UK Network of Engaged Buddhists, and **voices in the wilderness uk.**

RESISTANCE DIARY

MASS ACTION, LAKENHEATH Mon. 3 Feb.
Meet Gate 1 USAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, 12 noon
Lakenheath Action Group 01508 550446.

MASS DIE-IN, BOURNEMOUTH Sat. 8 Feb.
1pm, Bournemouth Square. Military uniform or white protective suits/gas masks. Please bring banners, whistles, horns. 07743 537043

MASS SIT-DOWN, LONDON Sat. 15 Feb.
After the rally in Hyde Park, gather Green Park near Green Park tube, for sit-down at Eros, Piccadilly Circus for Valentine's Day weekend. Called by ARROW 0845 458 2564, supported by CND, Cambridge Students against the War & others

COURT, LONDON Mon.Tues. 24/25 Feb.
Warzone Whitehall cases need support, 10am both days, Horseferry Magistrates Court.

In the event of war

Around the country Pledge groups will hold their own forms of nonviolent action.

In Glasgow, the Scottish Coalition for Justice Not War (0141 423 1222) will hold a sit-down at noon in George Sq., Glasgow, the Saturday after war begins.

In London, the ARROW (0845 458 2564) sit-down will start from the south side of Trafalgar Square, gathering at:
7pm that evening if war starts before 4pm
7pm next evening if war starts after 4pm
AND 11am on the first Sat. after war starts unless first action takes place on Fri., in which case 11am on **second** Sat. after war starts.

PLEDGE GATHERING, LONDON 1-2 Mar.

Groups and individuals welcome to first National Gathering of the Pledge of Resistance UK. Venue tba. Sat. 11am-5pm. Details later ARROW 0845 458 2564 or <www.j-n-v.org>.

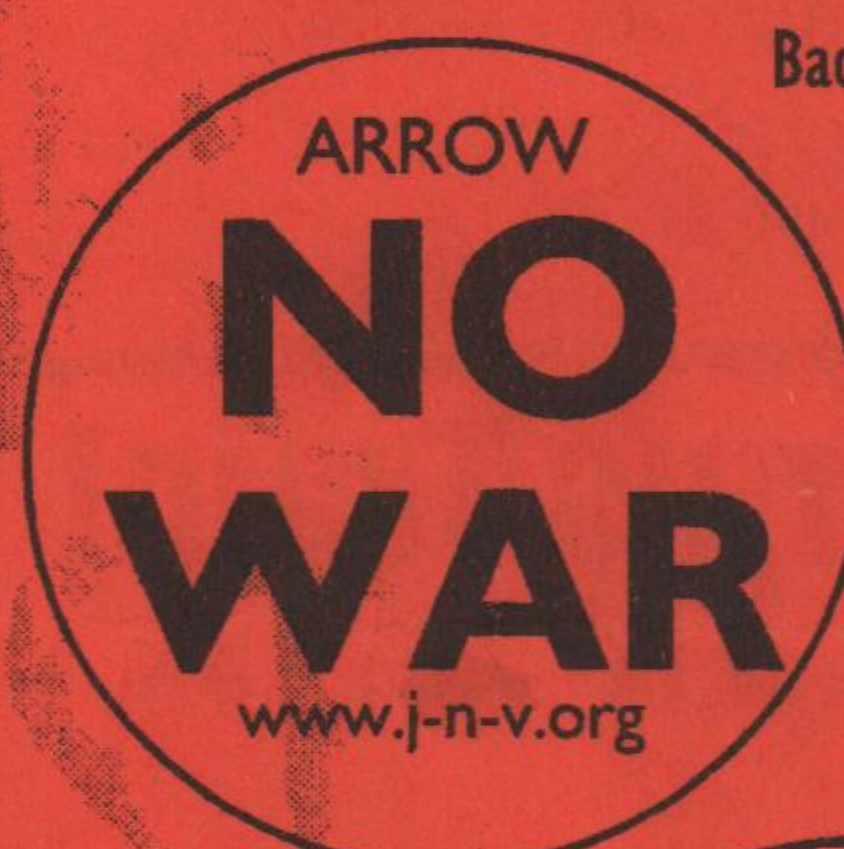
FOIL THE BASE, MENWITH HILL Sat. 22 Mar.
Mass Action against war and Star Wars at this US spy base <foilthebase@yahoo.co.uk>

More actions will be listed on <www.j-n-v.org>, <schnews.org.uk> <indymedia.co.uk> Please do report your actions, it inspires the rest of us!

WINDOW POSTER

A4 'No War: War Kills The Innocent'. Available from ARROW, using the order form below.

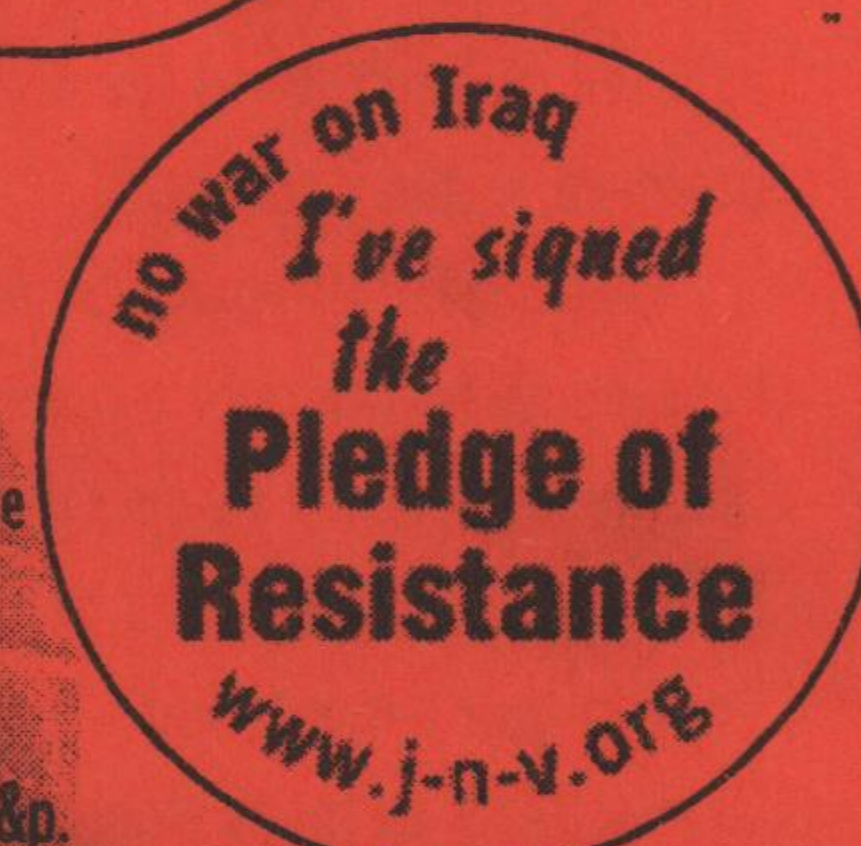
ARROW NO WAR BADGE



Badges from office for donation. Please use the order form below if you would like some.

PLEDGE BADGE

Badges available from address below for just 40p each inc p&p.



 Please complete and return this form to ARROW, c/o **voices**, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX

I oppose US/UK military retaliation for September 11th. (Please tick ONE PLEDGE ONLY.)

PLEDGE OF ACTION I pledge to take part in nonviolent civil disobedience in the event of a major US/UK attack on Iraq or any other country in the course of the "war on terrorism." ☐

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT I pledge to support people in my community carrying out nonviolent civil disobedience against the US/UK "war on terrorism." ☐

Signed

Please only sign if you agree to have your name and town published on the web and for campaigning purposes. (All other details will be kept confidential.) Please tick box if you don't want your details to be passed on to other local Pledgers ☐ I enclose a donation of £ to help the work of the Pledge. (Please make cheques payable to 'ARROW' and mark them 'Pledge' on the back).

Please send me ☐ Pledge postcards (free) ☐ ARROW Bfgs ☐ Pledge badges @40p inc p&p ☐ ARROW badges (donation please) ☐ Anti-War Window Posters (donation please) ☐

Name (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Phone

Email