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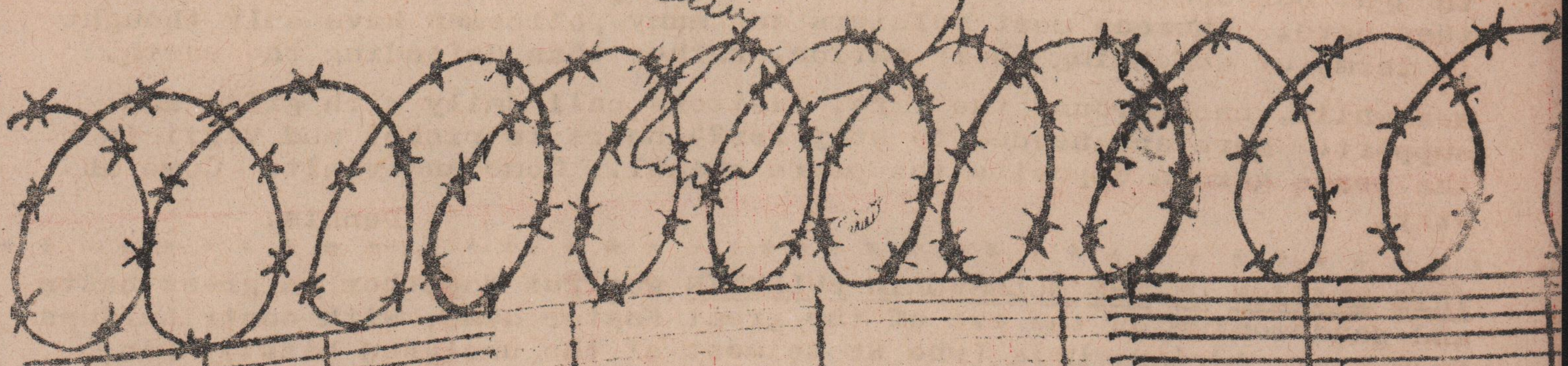
Molesworth BULLETIN



number 5

April 1985

PAY WHAT YOU
LIKE S/R



from
Latest news
all the groups
involved in the
Molesworth campaign.

NOTES FROM PEACE CORNER

Gazing out from the campfire over the razorwire into the compound now imprisoning the 'Eirene' chapel and many trees planted last year; the overwhelming impression is of a military camp, yet one in which the Ministry of Defence police are the prisoners - we are the guards. We observe the half-finished chapel and the untrodden trees and keep an eye on them.

We bring songs and poems of resistance and civil disobedience. We live in the open and close to the ground, for a short time at least. We notice when trees come into leaf. We see the yellowhammers and bullfinches. We feed the cat - one of the Rainbow Village refugees. We give the Royal Engineers badges, and the M.O.D. police leaflets and magazines. We build relationships and we encourage ideas. Ideas are dangerous and the most subversive of all.

They use bulldozers: we use hoes. They use barbed wire: we use our voices, our bodies, our spirit. They use a ladder of command upwards and downwards: we use a chain of communication, links circle-wise (each and everyone both officer and 'other rank'). They use clean uniforms: we wear jumble clothes with equal dignity. They carry the latest in communications - radio and helicopter: we use our feet and person-to-person.... and have an old and beautiful black telephone we can pick up and know with confidence that it is not tapped - for it is not connected. (Durham Peace Action initiative). They use daily command sheets: we use duplicated bulletins, silkscreened posters, photo-litho magazines, and postcardpoems and and pacifist/anarchist leaflets.

They are 'just doing their job': we are just doing our voluntary duty; picketing and vigiling and presenting a variety of important floating ideas, like Quaker ones, anti-nuclear disarmers, pacifist ones and ecologists - 'the Greens', like Christian ones and libertarian ones. As if each and every person coming to Greenham or Molesworth had really thought out some of the issues of nuclear power and weapons - as indeed they have. Whereas most soldiers and many policemen have only thought in terms of defending their nation, rather than defending the earth.

Meanwhile, back around the fire, visitors call daily with gifts and support. More are needed to stay for 24-hours to picket and vigil in the peace garden opposite the peace chapel. Come and visit. Come and stay.

Dennis.

* * * * *

THIS EDITION OF THE MOLESWORTH BULLETIN was put together in great haste and pandemonium on the eve of the great Easter demo, with contributions from Nick, Adrian, Brig (who wrote most of the unsigned bits!), Lin, Helen, Angela, Jennifer and Ian, Postman Jon, Jan, John Perry and innumerable duplicating and collating assistants without whom...etc. etc.

CONTACT ADDRESSES for the various elements of the Molesworth campaign are as follows:

PEOPLE'S PEACE CAMP, Warren Lane, Fay Way, Clopton, Kettering, Northants. (phone messages via Clopton 257)

EASTER WHEAT FUND, c/o Old School House, Clopton, Kettering, Northants NN14 3DZ, tel: Clopton (03015) 257.

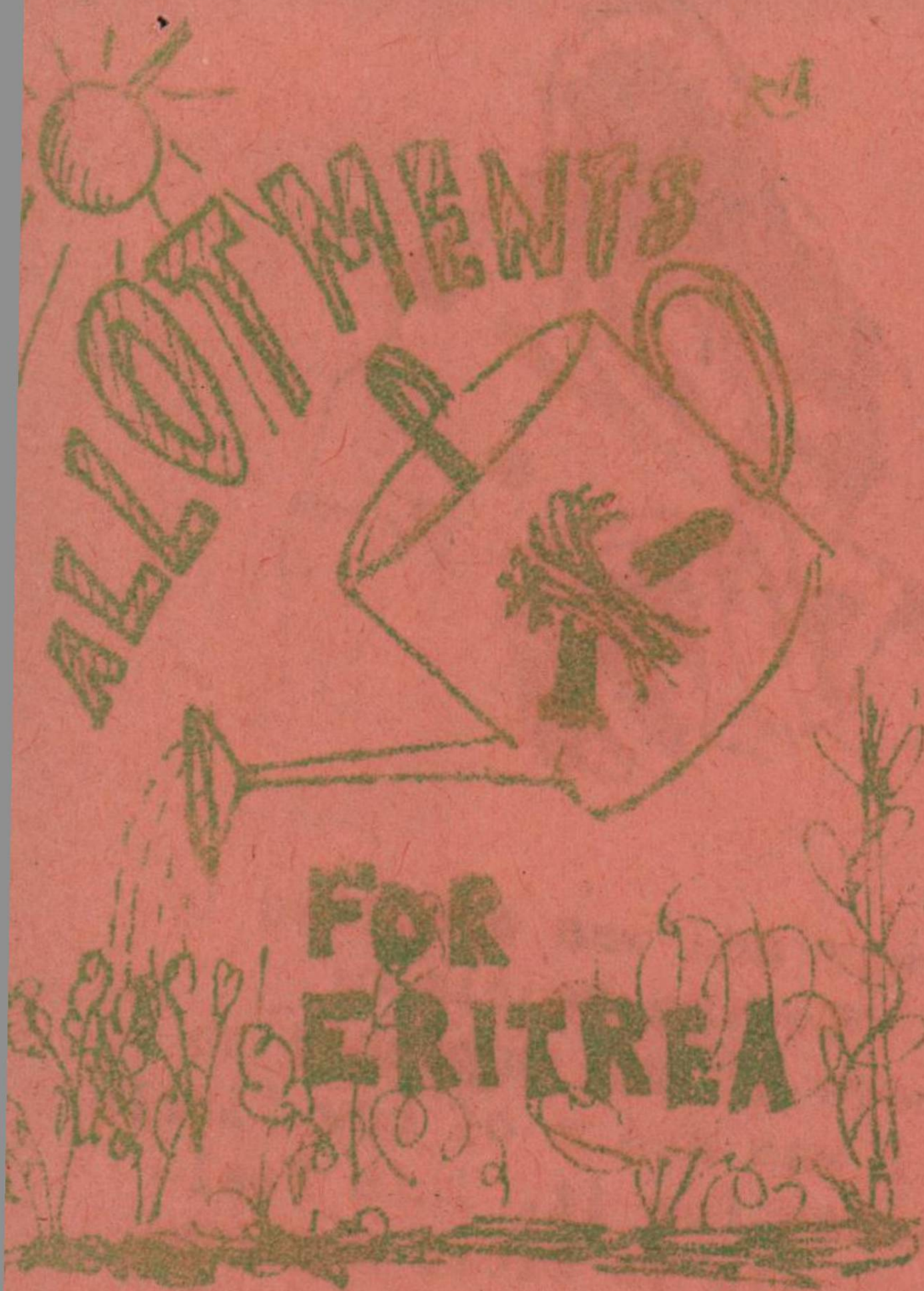
RAINBOW VILLAGE (in exile), c/o Old School House (as above) OR c/o Catworth P.O., Catworth, Huntingdon, Cambs.

QUAKER PEACE CARAVAN (Halcyon Spirit), Peace Corner, Old Weston Road, Brington, Huntingdon, Cambs. Phone messages via Clopton 257.

CND MOLESWORTH LEGAL SUPPORT UNIT: emergency 24-hour phone number, Peterborough (0733) 47276.

CND MOLESWORTH FLEDGE CAMPAIGN: contact CND at 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ (tel: 01-263 0977), who will put you in touch with your local area contact.

the EASTER WHEAT FUND



The seedling of an idea started to grow in spring '84 when people started to dig up the Molesworth base, first with forks and hoes, later with rotoryvarors and tractors. After the winter planting day last October, when we collected and sent 20 tonnes of wheat and blankets for Eritrea, we decided to plough up 64 acres of the base; the same as the number of Cruise tomahawk missiles that the Powers plan to have here. A symbol which only a government pledged to an escalating arms race could ignore.

People will die in Eritrea as a result of the fence at Molesworth. People will die because money is spent on missiles instead of subsistence living. People will die, due to a 'deterrent' cruise missile from Molesworth.

When the army took over at Molesworth, they destroyed the wheat project; as you look around the base you see bulldozed trenches, mud, soldiers and contractor's vehicles, already preparing to build the silos. In February, we started the fund aiming to collect 120 tons of wheat this Easter Monday, the amount that could have been grown organically on our 64 acres. As I write this on Good Friday afternoon one lorry, carrying over 20 tons of wheat has already left, and thousands of people from all over the world have sent us over £17,000, more than enough to buy our 120 tons.

A Band Aid ship will leave Tilbury docks on April 15th carrying our wheat and there will be money left over to buy vegetable seeds for local farming projects in Eritrea.

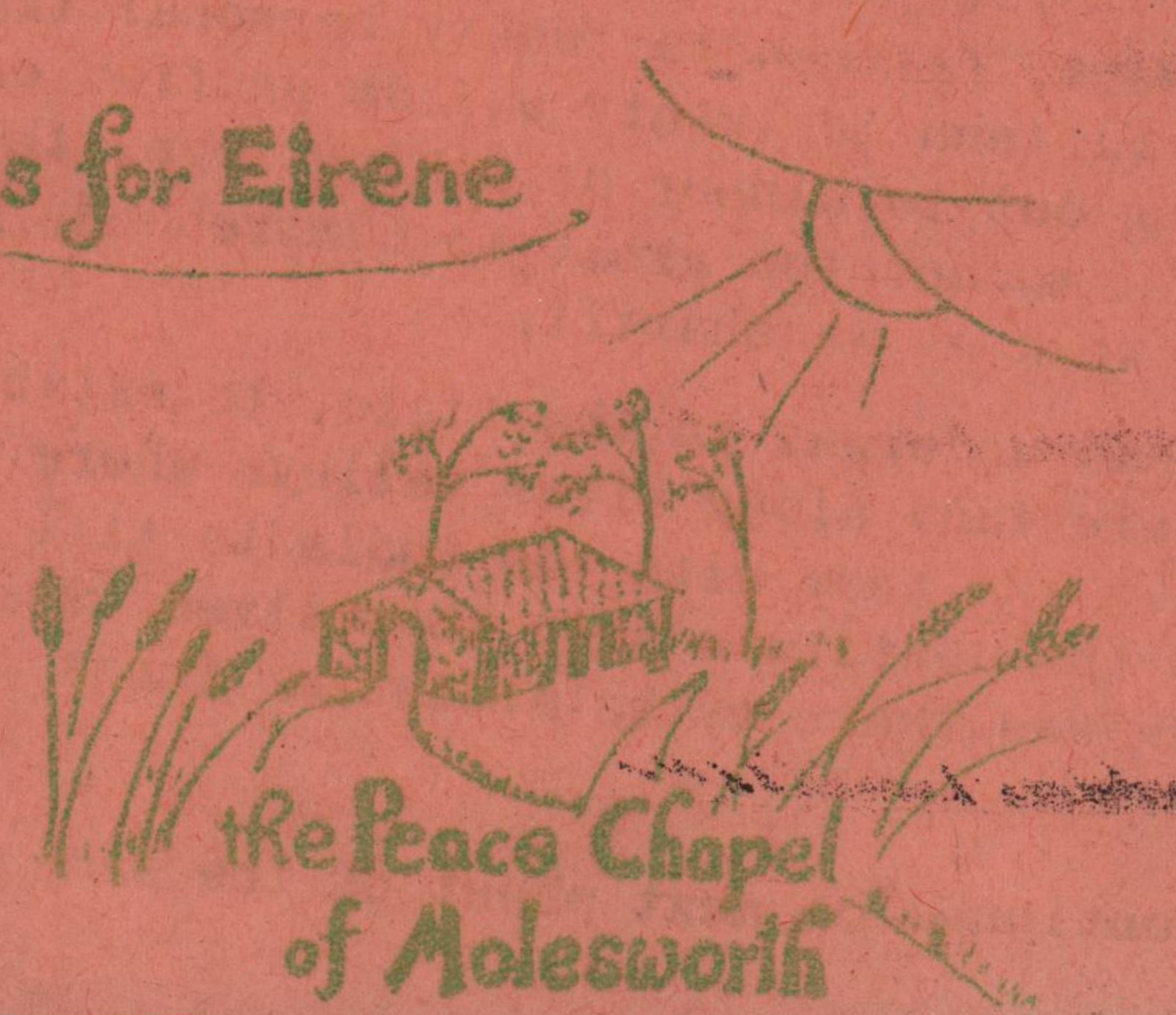
The attitude of the police is interesting-at the morning service outside Eirene yesterday, we shared bread after talking about breaking down barriers and divisions. I passed a hunk of bread through the wire to an MoD policeman who took it and gave a piece (a peace?) to each of the other eight men in the chapel. As they shared with us I felt they shared one world and the fence melted into insignificance. Someone said "It's all right, you can come out, there aren't any fences!" Do these men believe in war, in hatred, in distrust? It's so much easier to share, to accept people.

The wheat project is a strong statement of Non-violence, a glimpse into a world where people can grow together, with hoes on their shoulders instead of rifles; hands holding hands, not waiting over the nuclear button. Can we expect a future if we do not plant our visions today?

Nick



Songs for Eirene



This cassette sung by Michael with his autoharp and Tim and Bridie contains songs composed for the all-faiths Peace Chapel and other songs that capture the Eirene spirit.

It can be bought from The Old School, Clopton for £3.00 (minimum) and profits are going to the Wheat Fund.

ERITREA



When the last shipment of wheat left Malesworth in October of last year and was escorted by a convoy of vehicles to the A1 with a banner on its side which read; "To the People of Eritrea, with Love.", I decided to go with it to make sure it got where it was supposed to go and to compile a slideshow and video of the journey. At the time I was aware of how little I knew about what I was intending to do, and the difficulty of preparing for it. This feeling grew until finally, as Juliet and I waited in Port Sudan for the grain to clear customs, and we sat and listened to the endless stories of those coming from Eritrea and Tigray; of massive organized evacuations from Tigray, mile upon mile of refugees walking at night to avoid detection, strafed by MiG's in the early hours of the morning; and I knew that I was an innocent abroad, completely unprepared, and that was the best way to be.

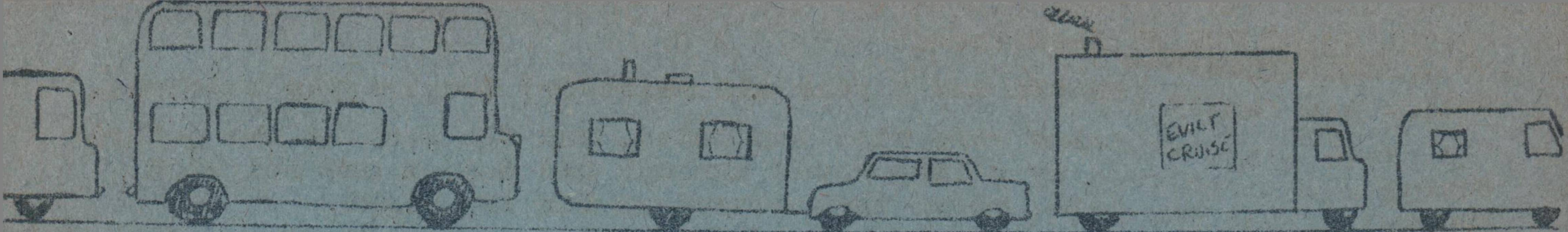
We left Port Sudan at night, in an open backed Toyota truck with bad suspension and no breaks; I was in the back, bracing myself all night long against the worst potholes in the 'road'. The underlights of the truck showed the thick sand covered in tracks and ruts going in all directions. In the morning twilight I poked my head out of the canvass to be assaulted by the sight of a vast towering landscape of pinnacles frozen into peculiar attitudes, sliced by thin clouds; volcanic intrusions seeming still to flow, liquid and massive down to the road.

During our visit we saw hospitals, irrigation schemes and agricultural projects, and more than enough to demonstrate the incredible perseverance of the Eritreans to develop their country themselves, even after twenty-five years of war, and it seemed as though the war had forged their ideas of development as clearly as it had forged their hope. All the projects are necessarily small in scale, because of lack of resources and in order to avoid detection; consequently their efforts are economical and decentralised, relating specifically to the needs of a given area. The health service is an example of this, far from being dominated by hospitals, its structure coincides with the recommendations of the World Health Organization two years ago, but by force of circumstance; there is one large central hospital and nine smaller regional ones, every displaced camp has a clinic and teams of bar doctors visit villages and nomadic settlements, and give vaccinations and basic education as regards hygiene and sanitation.

The displaced camps in Eritrea were in stark contrast to the refugee camp, Wadsharifi just outside of Kassala in Sudan, where 40 000 Eritreans had come, some over 400 kilometers, enduring a terrible journey in the mistaken belief that all would be well upon arrival at the camp. One Red Cross worker I spoke to said, "You could put a roof over the whole of this camp and call it an Intensive Care Unit." All the workers there looked tired and in need of rest, but with hundreds of refugees coming in every day no rest could be for long. I remember seeing the little sack swathed body of a girl waiting for burial as the diggers sat around her grave, a little way off her mother and other female relatives sat and wept, I sat with them remembering my own bereavement and talked brokenly with them. As I left and walked across the immense flatness I asked the coordinator how many were dying here, he answered, "Fifteen to twenty a week." The absurdity of trying to quantify this tragedy, these tragedies, suddenly burst in upon me, and I wept, fifteen to twenty personal tragedies every week in this camp alone, all avoidable, fifteen to twenty worlds snuffed out; while a few thousand miles away my friends are going out to dinner or making love, that these should be happening at the same time was for a moment too great to comprehend. A few weeks ago I heard that over fifty were dying a week at Wadsharifi.

The projects that the Eritrean Relief Association has underway in the field, to establish 50 new camps capable of settling 90 000 on cultivable land along river valleys where what water there is has a chance of being used, and providing them with the tools to till the land is significant of their determination to help the destitute help themselves. They hope to attract back from Sudan some of the 100 000 refugees there by establishing these new communities, and to do this they need our help.

continued on next sheet of the same colour!



RAINBOW VILLAGE - still going for it!

Ever since its beginning, when we sat and contemplated 600 acres of empty Mob land at last August's 'Harvest For The Hungry' Green Gathering, the Rainbow Village has had one motto - "Go for it!"

At Desborough Airfield we were in a bit of a 'backs to the wall' situation: we had made good contacts with a lot of local people, and had good positive coverage in the Northants press, but we had also had a lot of heavy police attention and intimidation, and were faced with another eviction and no clear idea of where to go next.

The night before the bailiffs were due the decision was made. A group of the more together vehicles would make a run for Molesworth, while the remainder would try to get onto a piece of council land in Corby, only 3 or 4 miles away from Desborough.

The next morning, Friday March 22nd, the goforit convoy lined up on the runway, only to find its way blocked by a row of farm tractors. The estate manager wanted to bring a load of lorries in to weigh his contribution to the EEC grain mountain on his new weighbridge. However, after a few minutes of negotiation the line of tractors backed off, and the Rainbow Village (complete with TV cameras, reporters and a solicitor) was on the road again.

The run to Molesworth was smooth and trouble-free, with no breakdowns and a steady pace of 40mph. The Northants police (who had been carefully planning the eviction for the previous two weeks) were totally confused by the apparent split, and most of them stayed behind with the larger convoy which was still getting itself together on the airfield. The back road to Molesworth had not been blocked, and with police behind but not in front the 18 vehicles and 44 Rainbow Villagers sped through Clopton and back into Cambridgeshire.

At the end of Cockbrook Lane the lead vehicles swung left onto the bridleway. Unfortunately, due to the muddy conditions, only half a dozen vehicles managed to get off the road before the police arrived in force and began arresting people indiscriminately in order to reduce the numbers. (The senior police officer at the scene was actually heard to say 'There's too many of them - arrest a load of them!') A dozen people were arrested in this way, and were all later released without charge.

The occupation of the bridleway lasted about 8 hours in all, before the last of the vehicles were illegally removed by police and the same contractors who had pulled us off the Mob land in February. It was during this towing off operation that a nasty accident occurred which marred an otherwise peaceful and good humoured day.

Chris Craig and family were towed off the bridleway in their bus and onto the edge of the road. The tow chain was disconnected. There were forty or fifty police all round their bus, shouting to each other and waving their arms about. As far as Chris could see, they were waving him on out onto the road, so he began edging his bus slowly forward. Then total pandemonium broke out, because unknown to Chris one of the contractors was still underneath.

Luckily the locked doors of the bus prevented the other contractors breaking in with crowbars and doing Chris physical damage, although the police were not over gentle in hauling him out through the driver's door. The injured contractor was taken off to hospital and had to have his spleen removed: Chris was taken off to the police station, locked up, and threatened with a charge of attempted murder, while his bus was impounded

STILL GOING FOR IT (continued)

making his family (Sheila and 3 year old Alistair) temporarily homeless.

Five other vehicles were also impounded, and the rest of the goforit convoy was shepherded by police round through Old Weston and Leighton Bromswold onto the A604, where they camped up for the night.

Meanwhile, the slow convoy was having adventures of its own. From Desborough they headed for the council land at Corby, but were prevented from getting on to it. From there it was a long slow haul through Kettering and down the A6 under heavy police escort. There were frequent stops en route for various mishaps like broken tow ropes and boiling radiators, including a very long chip stop during which the police were hassling everyone to get moving again whilst Rainbow Villagers proclaimed between mouthfuls that they were human beings who had a right to eat!

Eventually, the Northants police achieved their objective of escorting everyone out of the county into Bedfordshire, where the convoy was at last able to pull into a lay-by for the night at Sharnbrook. It was a small lay-by in which all the vehicles had to park nose to tail, so a small group armed with spades sneaked out in the middle of the night and dug out the entrance to another lay-by (actually a bit of disused road) about a quarter mile further on towards Bedford. This site had been blocked off with a mound of earth last year after the eviction of a gypsy camp, but the surreptitious midnight digging enabled the convoy to occupy the site next day to the total amazement of the local police.

Back at Rainbow Village North (the goforits), Saturday was also a busy day. Apart from Chris, all the arrested people had been released by midnight, so it was decided that everyone should go to the council yard at Stilton to recover the impounded vehicles. The journey was hilarious! On Friday afternoon the police had told the media that we would be out of Cambridgeshire that night, but the convoy didn't actually leave Ellington until the middle of Saturday afternoon. Under police escort they took up both lanes of the A1 northbound, causing a huge tailback which got even worse when half the convoy pulled into a garage for fuel and munchies (and filling water containers and letting all the children have a pee) while the police refused to let any other traffic past for 20 minutes so as to keep everyone in one group.

In the end the police had to let the traffic go, which enabled the two halves of the convoy to come into Stilton from opposite ends of the village. Although they actually left a gap for traffic to get through, the police blocked both ends of the road through the village.

At the pound both police and Rainbow Villagers were shocked and amazed to find that the impounded vehicles had been seriously vandalised. Prop shafts had been cut off with wearings gear, and diesel and petrol tanks had been filled with mud and sand, and bodywork smashed and battered. Inside, people's homes and personal belongings had also been vandalised. The police were very apologetic and disturbed by this, since the vehicles were supposed to be in their care and safe keeping. The villagers were understandably irate.

Rainbow Villagers suggested to the police that, given the situation, they could perhaps squat the council yard until all the vehicles were repaired, or else go out onto the A1 and wait for the disabled vehicles to be brought out to them. The police, knowing themselves to be in the wrong, became amazingly cooperative and immediately found a layby on the A1 where everyone could stay, and towed all the disabled vehicles out to join us (including a caravan which had been there ever since the original Heseltine eviction!).

During the following week, police mechanics came out to the Rainbow Village North lay-by and fitted new prop-shafts for us, and CID officers cracked down the vandals and charged them with the damage. It made a welcome change to have them working FOR us!

At Rainbow Village South the Bedfordshire constabulary were not being nearly so cooperative. On Monday (March 25th) a truck-load of

STILL GOING FOR IT (continued again)

people went into Bedford to sign on. Seeing 5 people in the cab of the truck, 6 bold Bedfordshire bobbies decided to arrest them all on suspicion of possession of drugs. They were a bit taken aback when 20 more people came out of the back of the truck to be arrested as well, but nevertheless proceeded to fill Bedford Police Station with suspects.

Everyone was held for four hours and strip searched, and the truck was thoroughly searched, but there was not a blim of any sort of illegal substance to be found anywhere. It was a scene of farcical absurdity as 25 Rainbow Villagers (the youngest of whom was 1 month old Phoebe) took over Bedford 'nick' for the afternoon. Beth managed to keep hold of a notebook and pen and played legal observer, writing down serial numbers and time every time a policeperson did something wrong, which discomforted the police greatly. In the end they were probably glad to let everybody go again.

Meanwhile, poor Chris Craig was still locked up in Bedford gaol. The charge against him turned out to be one of greivous bodily harm, and he refused to accept the bail condition of residing at a fixed address and keeping out of a 20 mile exclusion zone around Molesworth. On the following Wednesday (March 27th) a judge in chambers reduced the exclusion zone to 15 miles on appeal, and Chris reluctantly accepted bail mainly for the sake of his family and so that he could get their bus out of police custody. Sheila got the bus moved from Huntingdon Police Stn. to Rainbow Village North in the A1 lay-by (it had been impounded separately from the other vehicles taken that day), and Chris came up to the lay-by in a police car before going on with the bus to Rainbow Village South (still with a police escort), and then by car to his bail address in Gamlingay, Beds.

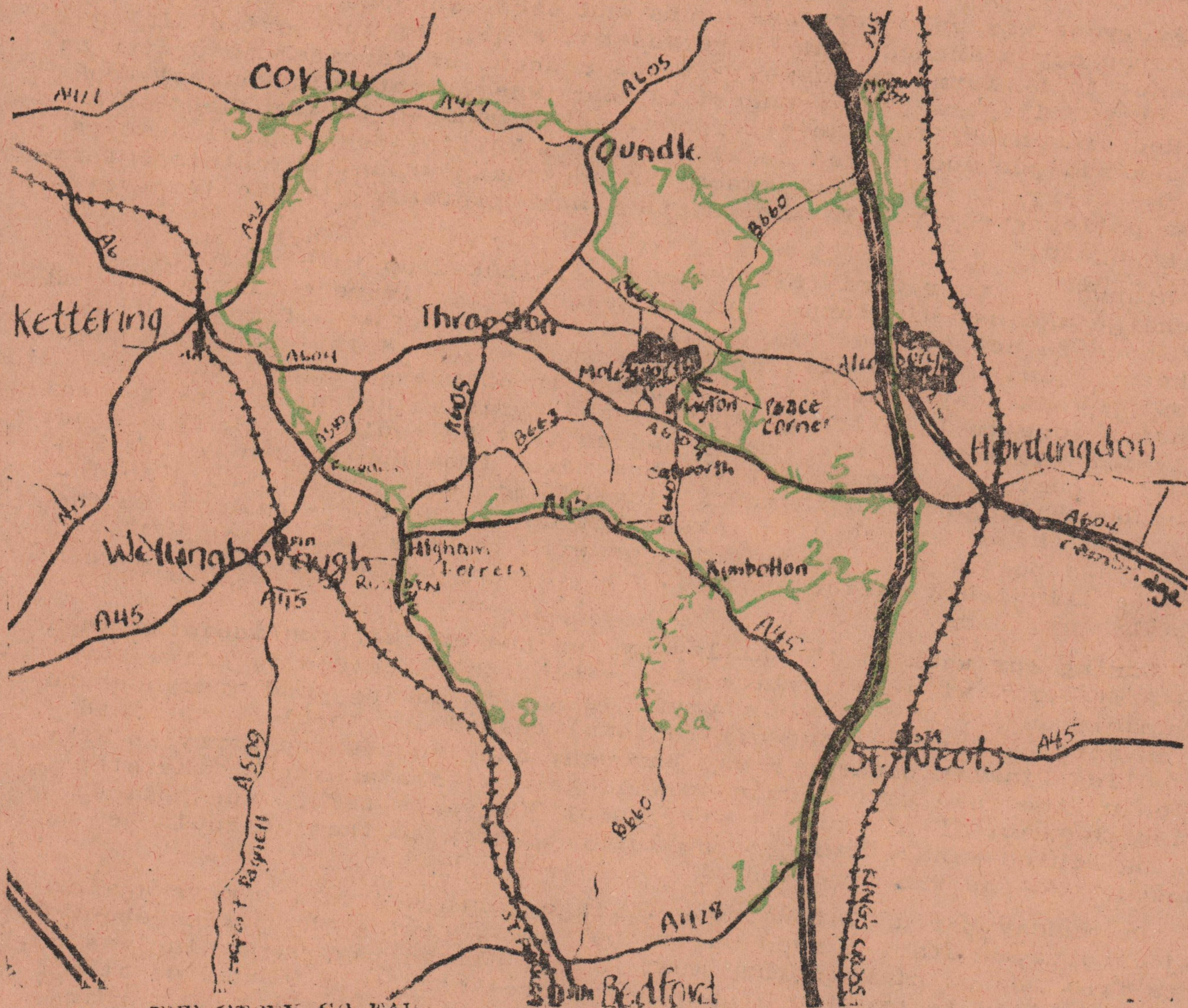
During our week at the A1 lay-by, we had another fun incident when a US Army lorry with MoD police escort foolishly decided to drive through, presumably on its way to Alconbury. We saw it coming, and everyone who was on site (a lot had gone off to town) rushed out to block the road. The police finally cleared a way through, only to see the lorry go driving on up the road with a Rainbow Villager still standing on the step behind the cab. Ben's ride lasted about 300 yards before the police running behind managed to get the lorry to stop so that he could be removed. No-one was arrested.

On Sunday March 31st Rainbow Village North was on the move again. A projected 6a.m. start turned out to be 9a.m., giving the police about 2½ hours from the point when they must have realised that something was up, but they failed to provide a convincing presense or to hinder us at all in our move. We crossed the A1 and headed north. At the B660 turning the police transit which had put itself in front of us went straight on, while we all turned left and had an unimpeded run across country and back into Northants to Polebrook Airfield - yet another disused WW2 airfield, about 5 miles north of Clopton.

Most of the old Polebrook airfield has been ploughed up and turned into part of the great East Anglian prairie, but one fairly large corner remains as scrubland growing out of a 'soil' of clinker and hardcore - an ideal park-up for our buses and trucks, and an excellant site for anyone wanting to camp over Easter. The estate manager was quite philosophical about our arrival, saying that he'd been expecting us for a long time, and making clear that his main concern was that we should not let our dogs hunt the hares for whom this scrubland is an island refuge in the midst of the prairie.

Although the estate manager's London-based boss was not so philosophical and got us into the High Court for eviction proceedings in record time (papers lodged Tuesday, given to us Wednesday, in court Thursday), he was not quick enough to be able to get us off before the Easter weekend. Although the judge in London granted an immediate possession order, this can only be enforced by the county sheriff's department, and they certainly have no intention of doing anything until well after Easter Monday, so we have a safe campsite for the holiday weekend.

RAINBOW VILLAGE DISPERSAL ZONE



THE STORY SO FAR.....

Since Michael Heseltine's great eviction coup on February 5th/6th, Molesworth's Rainbow Village has been out on the road, being continually pushed and harassed from one site to another under the close attention of the police forces of three counties (Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire).

From Rainbow Fields we were escorted by large numbers of police (many of whom were waving big sticks!) out of Cambridgeshire to a lay-by at St. Neots (1). The following Saturday, despite heavy snow, we got back into Cambridgeshire and set up camp in an ice-covered car park at Grafham Water reservoir (2). Half a dozen vehicles which were illegally blocked out of the Grafham Water site by the police were pushed back out to another lay-by in Bedfordshire, but were recovered over the following few days (2a).

A High Court eviction order put us on the road again from Grafham into Northants to Desborough Airfield (3), where we spent another 3 weeks before the bailiffs arrived to enforce another High Court order. From there a 'flying convoy' comprising slightly less than half the Village made a dash for Molesworth and occupied a bridleway at the back of the base (4). The slower and lamer vehicles were pushed back into Bedfordshire to a lay-by on the A6 (5), while the 'Go For It' team visited lay-bys at Ellington (5) and on the A1 (6) before occupying Polebrook Airfield (7).

Life at PEACE CORNER

-the vigil
at the
wire



"Eirene" - Molesworth Peace Chapel

March 10th: I decided to stay here on Peace Corner and fast at least until Easter or until a permanent presence is established here. There has been a sporadic presence with sometimes hundreds and at others none. Everyone I talk to agree that it is right to have a continuous presence here in addition to Ian & Jenny, who live in their caravan in Peace Lane. It is right because our witness for peace should be allowed to be here, as over half of this country think that having V Cruise Missiles is no way to keep the peace. It is right so that people can come and see the base and how the government (USA?) contain and harass peace people often using illegal means to protect their illegal weapons. It is right that prayers and services should happen near the Peace Chapel - 'Eirene' - and near the land being so misused. They do not need 9/10ths of the land that they have vandalised. It is right to monitor what is happening here. To picket contractors and establish 'watches' at all four main gates. The place feels like home to me, as I lived here from Dec '81 for a year. Have been a constant visitor with Angela ever since. I'm happy here. I'm already taking part in the Christian CND Lenten fast sponsoring CCND funds and CAFOD, so this fast will also make the links between our colossal expenditure on so-called 'defence' and the two-thirds of the world who are 'fasting' because they have no choice - links which Molesworth have been making since '82, and is now doing with the 'Wheat for the Starving' campaign. I do not intend to risk my health, and am drinking hot drinks and fruit juice. I expect to leave Peace Corner when others are staying here for short periods.

March 11th. Angela Needham has decided to fast with me for all or most of the time and will be here at Molesworth when our other commitments permit. She hopes to spend part of her time vigilling at the other principle gates to encourage the spread of a permanent presence round the base. At other times she will be at Peace Corner with me.

March 19th. Things are going well and I feel fine. I've rarely been alone, several people have stayed here, so I've been able to go to meetings, have a bath and spend a night away, and will be away for a day and a night at the weekend. We have been sleeping out and I'm amazed how cosy and warm it is in a sleeping bag inside a goretex in spite of every type of weather - wind, snow rain, frost and sunshine. Although it's almost certain no tents, benders etc. will be permitted, we have now a beautiful willow woven windbreak, in addition to a windbreak provided by a police barrier covered. People have already been generous and we can provide goretexes or survival bags for anyone who arrives with only a sleeping bag. We face south, and a beautiful view, such a contrast to the Moldwitz behind us. Two yellowhammers Sol and Solay live with us together with many birds. But the business end is at the other gates especially Cockbrook Lane Gate, where practically all the traffic enters. We need to collect contractors' names so that Unions and NPZ Councils know who to black. People are already beginning to do this; most of the traffic at present is for road construction

work - a perimeter road is being built. Meanwhile people come daily, to garden, look, worship, play music, do street theatre, lay gravel, pick up litter etc. People are coming all through the night and are glad to come (especially the 'etc'!) and sit round the fire and have a drink. One evening there was a good discussion between four Sheffield activists and four pro-cruise local young men from midnight to 2 a.m. The locals were particularly incensed by the presence of the chapel 'Why can't you worship in the village church?'. There is no fear of vandalism since we are 'protected' by up to 50 policemen!

The rota for the future is beginning to take shape, and we need more people to plan and come down and stay for 24 hours., a night, a few days or whatever suits them. Let us know, if at all possible, what days they or their group can cover so that we can feel confident that the 'watch' will be continuous. We need PEOPLE most of all, but we also need goretexes, or money towards them, and WOOD - this is a continual need; also pallets to keep the mud at bay. Use the above address or 'phone Clopton 257 (080 45). Let's get well settled in during the Spring - there is so much to do and it's such a good place to live, as long as your back is to the fences and the raped land.

- NEXT STOP ALCONBURY - Remember USAF Alconbury is the biggest part of this Cruise Missile base.

March 27th. 12.30 p.m. Angela and I returned this morning after a day in Northampton doing advance planning for the Alconbury 9 conspiracy trial there on June 10th. It's the biggest 'Peace' trial so far and will last about 4 weeks. Jane turned up to stay after we left to keep Tom company; so the watch continues, but most urgently needs goretex bivvy bags or money for same, as others would stay if there were more goretexes.

We are not heroes, just enjoying a few days on a lovely powerful spot. This piece of land is strong and the 'corner' gives a sense of peace, friendship and love. COME & TRY IT! Helen Trask.

* * * * *

IS GOD A SUBVERSIVE?

Whilst Rainbow Villagers continue to suffer constant harassment we have carried on at Peace Corner in much the same way. The Military Lands Act 1892 has been invoked making it a criminal offence to gain access to MOD land except by authorised entry points and we have been wondering where that puts the yellow-hammer, chaffinches, and sparrows who continue to hop in and out of the wire with impunity. Snudge the cat is another offender, several times during our services he has stretched and then strolled casually through the coils of razor wire. In fact, with grass and flowers growing up through the fence it seems as if the whole natural world is determined to demonstrate that it takes its orders from a higher authority than Michael Heseltine and Margaret Thatcher. Prompting the question - is God a subversive?

Our continued presence here when so many of our friends and one time neighbours have been denied the basic right to live and protest at Molesworth has made us feel uncomfortable. We know many who are bitterly disappointed and angry at being kept away and we fully understand how they must feel. As we write, some have been prevented by bail conditions from travelling from within fifteen miles of Molesworth. So we feel a special privilege in being here but at the same time somehow guilty at them not being here too.

We can however only continue to try and practice what we believe to be right in the hopes that people will begin to realize the urgency of the situation and come to terms with their fear and begin to act to stop the ongoing nuclear madness.

'Fear builds walls..... Love builds bridges.'

Jennifer and Ian.

'Halcyon Spirit'.

April fools?..... going for it again

The saga of the pre-Easter exploits of Rainbow Village North did not end with the taking of Polebrook Airfield on March 31st. Having secured a suitable festival/camping site at Polebrook, we were ready to turn our attention to the immediate area of the base and to make a run for Peace Corner; and having just moved the previous day, we reckoned that another move on Monday morning would be the last thing the police would expect. Above all, we figured that April 1st had to be the day to put one over on the authorities! (We were also rather keen to prove to ourselves that we were actually capable of making a 6 o'clock start that would actually manage to get somewhere before 9!)

Of course, just to be awkward, the government had put the clocks forward at the weekend, so we didn't quite manage 6 a.m., but nevertheless 18 of us managed to get 3 coaches, 2 vans, a flat-bed lorry and a car started up without pausing for breakfast, and got to Peace Corner before 7. Unfortunately, we didn't get there before the police, who were ready and waiting for us in great numbers with a van strategically placed across the entrance to George's field to make sure that we could not get in there.

We were waved down by the police, and we dutifully stopped. The head man told us to all get in a group so that he could talk to us, and we did. "Right" he said, "you're all under arrest!". And we were, all of us, including our two legal observers (one solicitor and one photographer), for actually doing nothing at all except driving down a public road and then following police instructions!

Lin Lorien insisted on driving her own bus to Peterboro police stn, and our lawyer, Jerry Hartigan, was allowed to drive his car. All the other vehicles were impounded (yet again), and their occupants taken to Peterboro in police transits. We were held all day in the cells, and told that we would be charged with a breach of the peace.

Twelve hours and two helpings of baked beans later we found ourselves in front of a special magistrates court in the police station on charges not of breach of the peace but (equally unfounded) charges of obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty. Because of the seriousness of this imaginary crime, the magistrates decided that we should only be given bail on condition that we did not go within fifteen miles of Molesworth. It was clearly their view that the 15 mile exclusion zone which had been established for Chris Craig should henceforth apply to any Rainbow Villager who happened to be charged with anything!

Despite the obvious injustice of the bail conditions, most of us accepted them, reckoning that it was better to be free for Easter than to be forced to eat yet more baked beans and horrible chips. The only person who actually refused to accept the conditions was Jerry the solicitor, who was consequently taken away to Bedford prison. Lin and her passenger 'Kitchen Jim' were (surprisingly) not charged at all, but were told that they might be summonsed later. No action was taken against the two little girls who had managed to lock a policewoman in one of the cells when she had been wheeling Jan in in her wheelchair.

Once we had all been released, there followed the business of getting our homes back out of the Stilton pound, which was slightly complicated by the fact that the police had taken the keys to Huntingdon police station. A police transit eventually took the drivers to get their keys, and thence to Stilton. This time our vehicles had not been vandalised, although they had been searched without any warrants even though they are our homes, and so we were able to reform our convoy and drive back to Polebrook for the night on the understanding that we would leave again the next day in order to obey our bail conditions.

All in all we couldn't help feeling that it had all been a bit of a waste of a day, but it won't be until the trumped-up charges get to court (if they ever do) that we'll find out who were the April fools.

U.S.A.F. Alconbury is 8 miles from Molesworth. It is the command control base for Molesworth. It is where they are building the residences and headquarters for Cruise missiles. It is also a spy base, and probably a nuclear store.

Seven people of nine originally charged have been committed to appear on June 10th at Northampton Crown Court on charges of conspiracy to commit criminal damage, arising from their life as a peace camp at Alconbury last spring. Please publicise this. Write to Pat and Quinn, 12 Axiom Avenue, Westwood, Peterborough, enclosing £2.00 for a subscription to the newsletter - first issue available now, Invite a speaker to your group. Send a donation to Alconbury 9 Defence Committee c/o Peace Chariot, 7 Furnace Cottages, Crow Edge, Sheffield S30 5HF, Phone 0114 276310. When you come to Molesworth visit U.S.A.F. Alconbury - vigil there, do other things there, organize an event there and let your local media know you have been and why. Support the trial in Northampton for 4 weeks from June 10th. We need a rota of people at court. Write to Peace Chariot and let us know when you could be there. Send for petitions etc. Remember - to the military Molesworth and Alconbury are the same place. On June 1st people in court for alleged offences at Molesworth were bailed not to go within 5 miles of Molesworth OR Alconbury. Cruise missiles and parts will be flown into Alconbury for Molesworth. A new road will be built to link them. There are many other ways we can publicise the conspiracy trial and make the links. The newsletter will give you more info. Please subscribe. Buy badges: soon we hope to buy other things. If you have any photos of U.S.A.F. Alconbury (actions there, the base, you there, etc., especially black and white) Peace Chariot would like copies - possibly negatives. We would like to have sets of A9 postcards to sell. This is all of us's trial. Conspiracy charges are charging people for discussing things - whether or not they have done anything. We are all conspirators for peace and justice. Do not let them get away with using their catch-all charges to crush our right to protest. Spread the word in all types of group - e.g. unions - against whom conspiracy charges can be used as a weapon.

* * * * *

(continued)

The developing countries are caught up in a race with the over developed nations for control of resources which are increasingly precious to both, and despite efforts to equalise this struggle, the benefits from say crops of cotton or coffee in Africa as a whole still flow in increasing proportions to the rich 'North'. We can no longer afford to consider these people only when the media picks out the beautiful face of a starving child; our pity is not enough. Our world is in the grip of the twin holocausts of mass starvation and nuclear fire, and merely to send money is in a sense to apply a bandage to a broken leg without resetting it first. RAF Molesworth and places like it are clearly priorities at a time when it seems we can afford very little. They are the visible squandering of resources on a nightmare.

Our wheat, distributed last Christmas Day to 900 families in Zara camp, and the 120 tonnes sent this Easter show the alternative. The world is falling apart; and we are trying to hold it together.

Adrian Martinez.

(Adrian is available to give talks and a slide show about Eritrea. He can be contacted at 8 Avenue Crescent, Hounslow, Middx. TW5 9LE, tel: 01-759 0547 or 01-267 2122 (messages).

* * * * *

APPOLOGY TO NOTTINGHAM PLEDGERS: In our last issue we stated that 50 Nottingham pledgers had got into the base in one action. In fact, only 15 people actually got inside, although 50 were involved in the action. (Please could pledgers give us info direct, so that we can get it right)

Feelings ~ on being arrested

Reflections on a crime of conscience

On August 31st last year, a week after arriving at Molesworth, I joined in the blockade at USAF Alconbury, and was arrested with about 140 others for obstruction of the highway. On Oct. 15th I was fined £25 plus £20 costs, told the magistrates I had no intention of paying, and was given a nominal 7 days or else. To my surprise, apart from the occasional letter I heard nothing more about it. Eventually I came to think of it as a triumph for civil disobedience, demonstrating the inability of the state to cope with determined idealists.

On March 22nd I was with a group from Rainbow Village trying to get onto a bridlepath near Molesworth, to camp for Easter. As part of the police policy of arresting as many as possible to reduce the numbers, I was arrested on the warrant for the unpaid fine, held for 8 hours and released without a court date being set. While in the cells, I had plenty of time to realise what should have been obvious. For the nuclear state, demonstrations like Alconbury pose no real threat: the base simply closes for the day, and the police get to practise crowd control. In return they get many useful warrants in case they should ever have to arrest anyone.

If you are considering leaving a fine unpaid, my advice is don't. Instead of going to the expense of locking you up, the state can simply leave you at large until it has a good reason to want you, and then haul you in. Until I pay my fine, I can be arrested at any time, without putting the police to the bother of finding a law I am breaking. There are quite enough ways to be nicked without going locking for them. In the long run, it's not worth it.

Postman Jon

QUIET MARTIN of Rainbow Village is at present in Pentonville Prison, for non-payment of a fine imposed as a result of the Alconbury action on December 2nd.

NO VOTES YET: Rainbow Villager Brig Oubridge is still trying to get onto the electoral roll, as a test case for other KV residents who were refused registration in February. His appeal is on April 17th.

ANGER & ENLIGHTENMENT

I am angry but I am enlightened. I have been through a fair arrest in the past - obstruction of the highway at last year's Summit - and spread peace and love vibes around the Met., but yesterday I was arrested simply for being a Rainbow Villager parked in my solicitor's car behind a few other of our vehicles, brought to a halt by the police at Peace Corner.

The charge is obstruction of a police officer in the course of his duty: that is to say, we got out of our vehicles when requested to do so, came together to stand in a group when requested to do, and were informed that we were all under arrest. While we were detained for approximately 12 hours, our homes (ie. the vehicles in which we live) were searched by the police without warrant. Bail conditions were imposed, whereby we will be immediately jailed if we go within a 15 mile radius of Molesworth. This also banishes us from Rainbow Village North where we were living. The new site (Polebrook Airfield) is beautiful, and was just beginning to look festive as we said goodbye.

Bail conditions are a strong tool to repress and disperse us. The police are determined to remove us from the area, however fragile their basis of legality.

Injustice hurts. Banishment hurts. Perhaps I'd feel better in prison, since I am no longer free.

Jan.

COURT SAYS POLICE ACTED ILLEGALLY

Charges against two Rainbow Villagers arising from the February move to Grafham Water were dismissed by Huntingdon magistrates in March. Mel and Carpenter Jim had been charged with assault and obstruction respectively.

Having granted a subpoena to Mel to call the TV news film which would have shown Mel being assaulted by the police, the magistrates then dismissed the case before they even had a chance to look at the evidence.

They ruled that the police had acted illegally in attempting to block the entrance to the car park at Grafham without the permission of the owners, Anglia Water Board.

Here, there and everywhere around Molesworth

This Easter, thousands of people will gather to show their opposition to war. One demonstration here is not enough, one day of a mass of banners badges and people is not enough. If the peace movement is to have a continuous protest here we need to be 100% committed to keep a constant presence around the base.

Already people have set up a continuous watch at Peace Corner. People are starting to do the same on Cockbrook Lane. There are four other gates apart from the Peace Corner gate. Some people are starting to name them after the four elements of life, Earth, Water, Fire and Air. Cockbrook Lane is already starting to be called FIRE GATE. Hopefully it won't be too long before we get people to start watching all these gates, to welcome pledgers, to observe what's going in and out and act on it.

The government are making up new laws daily to stifle protest. The new laws make typing anything to the fence, walking on M.O.D. property and driving a car without a 'recognised' pass an incriminating act. We need to have learnt from past experiences, mistakes and successes, to be flexible and mobile. To challenge the right to protest without being criminalised.

We need to be able to give everything in maintaining a constant watch all round the base. It requires money to buy goretex sleeping bags (special outdoor sleeping bags), to organise actions and publicise them. To keep in touch with people to tell them what's going on. To transport people around not only Molesworth but to Alconbury to act and protest at both of these places.

We need your support people who come here to stay. If people in your area are unwaged or poor and can come here, help them out. Finance them. If they have children who need looking after while they are here, offer it.

Make links with other issues that are connected with peace, such as anti-racist, animal rights, womens' liberation, civil liberties and the 101 other causes that are linked with peace. Publicise Molesworth and Alconbury. Plaster your area with posters, stickers and leaflets. If there aren't any, make them. Make Molesworth a name so everyone knows what's going on here and why we oppose it.

But most of all we need you. People to come and stay, even for a few days. Help us to keep up the pressure. Grab a goretex. If you haven't got one get your friends, group to buy one. But please we need people here as soon as possible.

On 21st July we hope to hold a demonstration at Alconbury's Military Tattoo, "STOP THE AIR FAIR". Stop the glorification of war. So put that down in your diaries for a start.

Molesworth is going to be a long hard struggle. We need everything: you, your money and your commitment. Commitment to Peace.

John Perry,
FIRE GATE, Molesworth

.....
THIS BANKER'S ORDER WILL ENABLE A CONSTANT FLOW OF CASH TO BE USED FOR PROTEST AT MOLESWORTH AND ALCONBURY.

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

Molesworth Action Fund T.S.B. Huntingdon A/c No. 777209-12177560

NAME:

NAME OF BANK:

ADDRESS:
A/c NO.:

ADDRESS OF BANK:

the sum of £ every month to the Molesworth Action Fund. To continue

order. Signed.....

After Easter - what next?

A one-day demonstration, no matter how many people it may attract, will not be enough to stop the construction of a cruise missile base at Molesworth. The most positive thing that the Easter demo can achieve is to create a determination in the people who do come to come again, and to keep coming back until the base is stopped, however long that may take. Greenham Wimmen have had that determination and commitment for over three years, and we need to build that same kind of persistent personal involvement in ourselves in relation to Molesworth.

The CND pledge has, understandably, gone through a bit of a lull over the past 2 or 3 weeks, as people have saved themselves for the Easter weekend. It is absolutely vital that there should be a continuing growth in the strength of the pledge movement after Easter.

Various regions have already started to organise special-effort pledge days in their areas - days on which they will make a special effort to get a big regional turn-out for a planned action (such as a blockade or a mass trespass - Essex pledgers are even organising a street party in Cockbrook Lane for Tues Apr. 23rd, contact 0245-420178). Fitting these special effort days randomly into the pledge rota means that the police and MoD will never know how many people to expect on any particular day. (For more details of the Pledge, and to be put in touch with your regional contact, contact CND on 01-263 0977).

The RIDE FOR LIFE 1985 will bring determined cyclists from all over the U.K. to Molesworth on April 26th, as the culmination of a number of 'star' rides from all over the countries. For details phone 01-671 1965 or 01-733 6055.

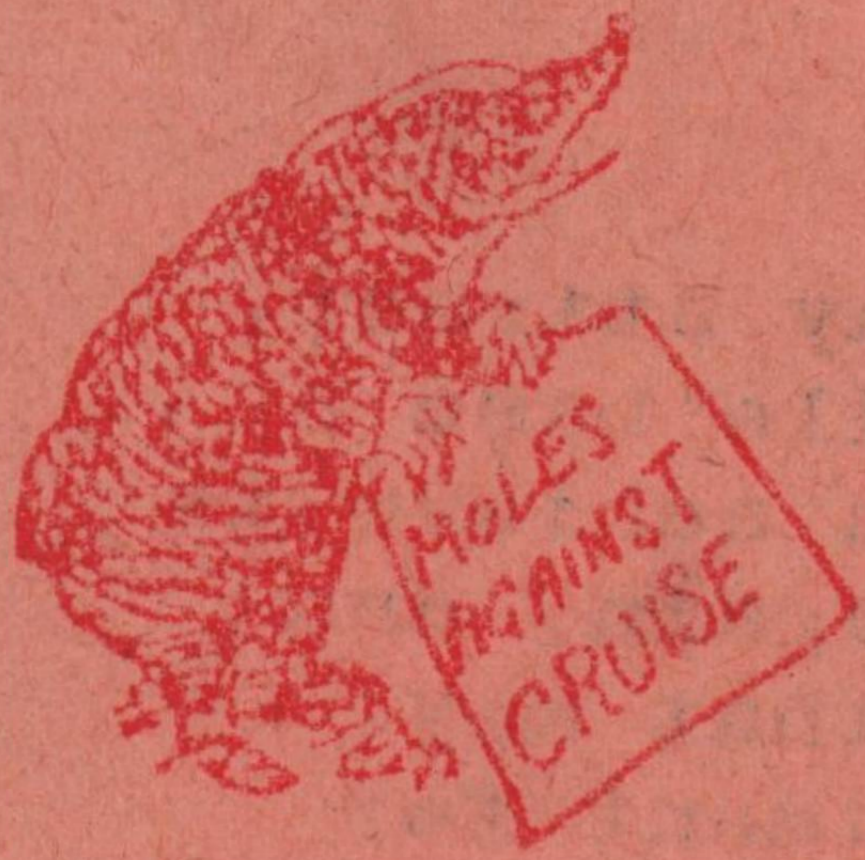
A traditional Beating Of The Bounds will take place on Mon. May 6th (bank holiday). For details contact Frank McManus, 97 Longfield Road, Todmorden, Lancs OL14 6ND.

The Bread Not Bombs Week of Action (May 20-26) being promoted by Oxfam and Campaign Against Arms Trade should provide an excellent chance to make the link with Molesworth, either through an action in your own area or by organising an outing to here (or, of course, both!)

The only limitation on the number and scope of activities that we can focus on Molesworth is our own imaginations. Please try and ensure that your local group organises or takes part in at least one big event at Molesworth and at least one local event focussed on Molesworth in the next few weeks, AS WELL AS getting people up to Molesworth as part of the regular Pledge commitment.

The Rainbow Village has also been wondering 'what next after Easter'. Being only human, many of us are feeling very worn down by the constant pressure that we have been under ever since Feb. 5th, and after Easter it is likely that most of us will want to get away from the immediate area for a while for a bit of a break. Some of us intend to take a Rainbow Village roadshow out on the road this summer with displays etc. to take the message of Molesworth out to fairs, festivals and other events throughout the country. These travels are also likely to take us to Salisbury Plain in June, where we will be looking forward to any opportunity of playing convoys with the cruise convoy and our mates from Cruisewatch. On our travels we will also be interested in finding other sites deserving of the attentions of a mobile protest group, as well as drawing to people's attention the fact that with Molesworth as well as Greenham pretty well the whole of Southern England will be a Cruise Missile Dispersal Zone. If you would like us to visit your area on our travels, please let us know.

However, with most of Rainbow Village ranging far and wide throughout England, it will be more important than ever that the rest of the peace movement should play a full part in keeping up the pressure at Molesworth itself. Defeating the might and vested interest of the vast military/industrial complex is not a quick and easy job, and it requires the maximum possible commitment from everyone. THIS MEANS YOU!!!



THE Molesworth BULLETIN



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MOLESWORTH BADGES are available singly or in bulk by post from Molesworth Literature, c/o 4 Bridge House, St. Ives, Cambs. Current stocks are likely to be all sold out at the Easter demo, but we will be restocking very soon. Please send S.A.E for an up-to-date list.

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SUPPORT THE GREENHAM WIMMIN Although Molesworth is the current focus of attention, the campaign at Greenham Common is still going on despite intense pressure from the authorities and round-the-clock evictions. Greenham Wimmin still need your support, now more than ever, and most especially need more wimmin to maintain the constant presence at the base. The Greenham newsletter has been relaunched, and is available from Blue Gate, U.S.A.F. Greenham Common, Newbury, Berks.