

Faslane FOCUS



News from Faslane Peace Camp

BLOCKADE
SEPT. ☺
FASLANE
16TH ☺ 1985

ASBESTOS: Victory for Common Sense but Glenboig Still in Danger.

This week the MOD has made a dramatic U-turn in its plans to move 80000 tons of asbestos contaminated material from Faslane. It was inherited from a shipbreaking company who leased the land from the MOD and is now in the way of the Trident development.

Originally the plan was to dig it up and dump it elsewhere, beginning by moving the first 3000 tons to Glenboig using contractors Shanks&McEwan, who own an old quarry in Glenboig in Monklands District and have already dumped refuse there and asbestos (not from Faslane). The people of Glenboig held public meetings and set up an action committee to try and stop this hazard coming to their village. They asked Monklands District Council to call in the site licence and modify it so that only asbestos from Monklands could be dumped there. The Council made promises and broke them just like the MOD. By contrast our council, Dumbarton District, were taking all the legal steps they could to stop the asbestos being moved, but their hands were tied because Faslane is crown property and so exempt from the law! In the end a Glenboig villager took Shanks & McEwan to court for an interdict to stop them dumping. The Sheriff told the Action Committee he couldn't understand why the council hadn't called in the site licence. He adjourned the case for the council to meet Shanks & McEwan.

The council are now saying that if Shanks & McEwan start moving the asbestos they will call in the site licence by 5pm. But Shanks & McEwan and sub-contractors Yulle & Dodds (who moved coal during the strike) are huge operators and can move all 300 lorry loads in one day. The council must know that, so whose interests are they protecting? In Monklands they are known as 'the Mafia'! If the lorries do start to move, we know that the people of Glenboig will not let them through. A blockade of the tip by 60 wimmin and children as a symbolic action closed it for 1½ hours recently!

The latest move by the MOD was to announce phases 2 and 3 of the decontamination programme, ie. enclosing some of the site in steel sheet pits and concreting over it, and vitrefying the asbestos to render more of it harmless.

However, the 300 lorry loads already bagged have to be dealt with and the MOD say they still have the option of dumping it at Glenboig.

The MOD claim the decision to deal with most of it on site was not the result of political and outside pressure. We think differently. We must keep up the pressure until Glenbiog is definitely safe.

Enough pressure and they'll cancel Trident!

Jane.

PHOTOS WANTED!

We are decorating the womyns caravan with photos of womyn - if you have any that you'd like pinned up, of yourself, your best mate, please send them, and we can fill the caravan with (spirits of) womyn. We're especially looking for photos of ex-campers.

STRANGE DREAM

Last night I had the strangest dream
I've ever had before
I dreamt that all nations
Had put an end to war.
I thought this dream so very strange
I wished it could be true
So when I hear of war not peace
I dream my dream to you.

(Egor '84)



BLOCKADE SEPT. FASLANE 16TH 1985

We've chosen a date for the first action of the Rainbow Campaign. It's September 16th, the anniversary of 300 people from the Scottish Committee of 100 blockading the Holy Loch in 1961. We are hoping that people who were there then will come along for a reunion this year.

The blockade will need as many people as possible to succeed. 300 people came in 1961; in 1985 we want at least 3000, if not 30,000!

We want to blockade Faslane (Clyde Submarine Base). Faslane is the proposed headquarters for the Trident Submarines. Faslane base only has two gates so it will be easy to blockade.

The 16th September is a Monday; for the weekend of the 14-15th we would like people to come along for NVDA workshops, to get to know each other, and plan exactly what will happen. There's plenty of room for tents on the grass verges around the base, and how about a temporary peace camp at the north gate?

This action is a RED ACTION - RED for STOP, RED for ANGER, RED for DANGER, and RED for the BLOODSHED OF WAR.

Please publicise this action widely and prepare for it NOW!

To stop Trident we need everyone's involvement; we are doing our best, but Trident preparations are going on in the base uninterrupted. We want the Peace Movement to come to Faslane as we feel the Trident work here hasn't been given the widespread protest it deserves.

We can send leaflets and soon posters to publicise the blockade, but we'd prefer people to write their own publicity explaining why they are coming to blockade the Trident site.

Please let us know if you want more information.

Out of this blockade we hope to create ideas for the next Rainbow Action so that more and more people take non-violent action at Faslane and Coulport to stop the Trident work going ahead.

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Why YOU Should Come And Blockade
Faslane On 16th September !!
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How many times have you heard someone say "If enough people came and protested at this base/ city/ nuclear power station/ coal mine, the MoD/ Government/ council/ coal board would HAVE to stop what they are doing ?

Well, we're saying that now, and we need YOU to come and blockade Faslane on 16th September.

Blockading Faslane is an act of civil disobedience. Such actions are both powerful and empowering, especially when taken with thousands of other people.

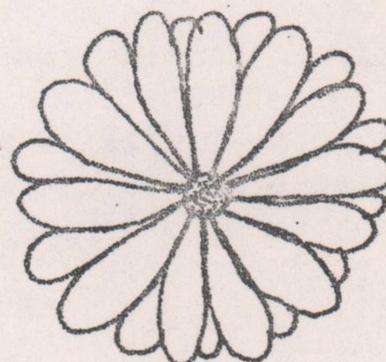
It involves breaking laws which are there to stop us taking our own responsibility for what is happening in the world. Many people will respond eagerly to this call to take action, some for the first time. Many, too will think it's a good idea, but won't see themselves participating. Perhaps you are among these.

Is there a reason why you stop short of taking part? If so, what is it? Is it more important than securing a future for the world? Is it more important than freeing your life from the threat of nuclear destruction?

As the writer Thoreau said, "Dissent without civil disobedience is consent". You CAN help to change the world. Together we can all stop nuclear weapons!

Panda.

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NUCLEAR WARHEAD CONVOY ACCIDENT

On Thursday June 20th the Polaris convoy had an accident in Helensburgh as it was travelling to Coulport. One 10 ton warhead carrier crashed into another, shattering its windscreen and damaging either the drive shaft or the air brakes so that the lorry couldn't move. Apparently this lorry had been having clutch trouble that day and the driver was having a hard job to slow down on the hill into Helensburgh, and smoke was seen coming from the back axle. The police were telling people to get out of the street because it could explode, and telling shopkeepers to lock their doors. The police panicked - with good reason. If the accident had been more serious it could have caused a conventional explosion, scattering radioactive debris over a wide area. The police only know this from talking to us: the MOD don't tell them anything, just make them risk their lives. In a typical act of buck passing, the MOD have blamed the local police for the accident. The convoy fire engine stood ready, and eventually the damaged mammoth major was towed by another. The convoy drove into Faslane base, and later on to Coulport without the damaged carrier. We think an empty carrier came back to Faslane at night and took the warheads from the damaged lorry to Coulport.

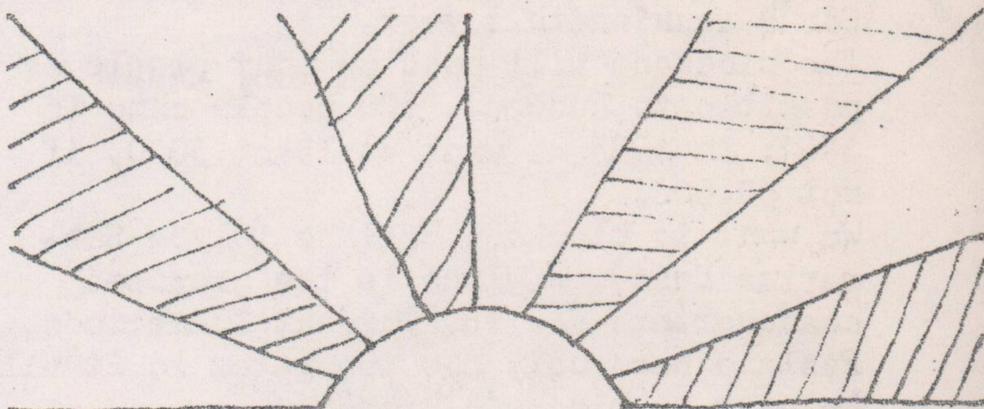
This convoy had 5 mammoth majors again. On Friday morning it left via Arrochar with only 4. Were there still unstable warheads at Coulport? We don't know. Coming north the convoy travelled on the A66 probably from RAF Honington, up to Longtown and through Balloch to Helensburgh. It returned via Arrochar and Loch Lomond. A week or so earlier someone had seen a mammoth major on tow. We know there is more than one convoy; was this the same one? The lorry that crashed was only 6 months old.

On Sunday 23 June the damaged mammoth major was towed out of Faslane at 3am. Two car loads of Peace Campers followed it, including Batch from Nuke Watch, USA. Was it carrying unstable warheads? In Hmu the police blocked the road in a "routine road check". They asked us to get out of the cars and give our names. As soon as William gave his name he was arrested - for being William Peden. They damaged our cameras trying to get the films out. The police stopped a Telecom van to make it look like a proper road check. The feeling of frustration and anger prompted me to shout "This is not a routine road check" for which I was arrested. William and I were taken to

Dumbarton police station in a roundabout way because Batch was following to see where we went. We were charged with breach of the peace, William was let out 4 hours later but I was held until Monday.

We are complaining to the police about this treatment and will also raise it with SCCL.

If you see the convoy or would like to watch for it in your area or take action against it, please contact us or SCND on 041 331 2878. Boris & Linda



COURT SOLIDARITY WANTED

Here is a list of our forthcoming court cases, all in Dumbarton Sheriff Court. We would greatly appreciate it if people can come along to any of these trials to support us. Court hearings usually start at about 11am, sometimes earlier. The court is 1 minute's walk from Dumbarton Central station. Come and form your own opinion of the Scottish judicial system!

- 5 July Corina Fence Cutting
- 18 July Jane, Phill, Tony, Spud, Pat
Various Convoy Blockades
- 30 July Shaun Convoy Blockade
- 5 August Spud Convoy Blockade
- 6 August Scott Painting the Base
- 23 August William Fence Cutting
- 27 August Jane, Linda Unraveling the Fence(!)

Some trials have been adjourned because, in the words of the Procurator Fiscal "An essential crown witness will be unavailable". The crown witnesses involved are from the V Unit, Strathclyde Police's "Instant Response Unit" as they call it. Are they too busy beating people up on the streets to come to court hearings? Or are the Chief Constables and Courts developing a policy of using their powers of arrest, detention and bail conditions to stop peace actions? Or is it because the Convoy is due on that day and the V Unit is needed to guard it ???

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POLARIS NUCLEAR WARHEAD CONVOY STOPPED -  
AGAIN!!  
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The Convoy arrived at its usual time, 2.30pm on Monday 13th May. Phill was surprised by the Convoy while he was doing a vigil at the North gate on Monday, so he stood in front of it on its way to Coulport. It was a while before the Police knew as they had gone on ahead. They whizzed back and saw Phill standing in front of the Mammoth Majors which were marooned without their support vehicles. He was arrested and held overnight. Next morning at 10am it went past the camp the other way. Some people stood on top of caravans taking pictures while 3 of us emerged from the bushes. "Stop" I shouted after sprinting to the front of a Mammoth Major. Stopping it with my body I felt really powerful. One convoy equals one Polaris Submarine. No convoys equals no Polaris Submarines! I lay down in front of the warhead carrier, a policeman dragged me away. I saw Legge climbing on top of a warhead carrier, he danced on top of it until a policeman dragged him off it. Jeanne had been rugby tackled in front of the next Mammoth Major. The Police were shouting "If she moves, sit on her" to which Huw on top of a caravan called out "You do and I'll get a lovely photograph". They didn't like that... From the side of the road I saw the convoy ground to a halt, 2 Mammoth Majors in front of me and three behind. Meanwhile the photographers on top of the caravans were clicking away getting some beautiful pictures.

This convoy consisted of FIVE mammoth majors four transits of RAF regiment soldiers, two transits of police, one full of V Unit, and three RAF soldier outriders dressed as police. It came through Balloch on the Monday and back out through Dumbarton.

Linda.

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PAWS FOR THOUGHT
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Have you any idea how difficult it is being the peace camp puppy? It's a real dog's life I can tell you. There's a bunch of 10-15 daft campers to look after and they're all vegetarians, so there's never a decent corned beef sandwich to nick, only jam, and it's hard work looking hungry and pathetic and excited to get these peace campers to part with a corner of their jammy pieces. Still, they're a good crowd as people go and I do appreciate that they care about us animals.

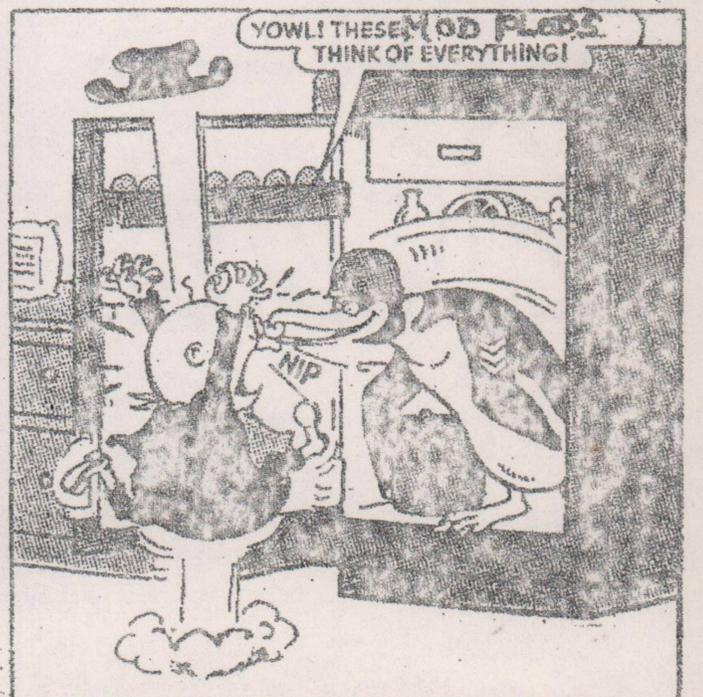
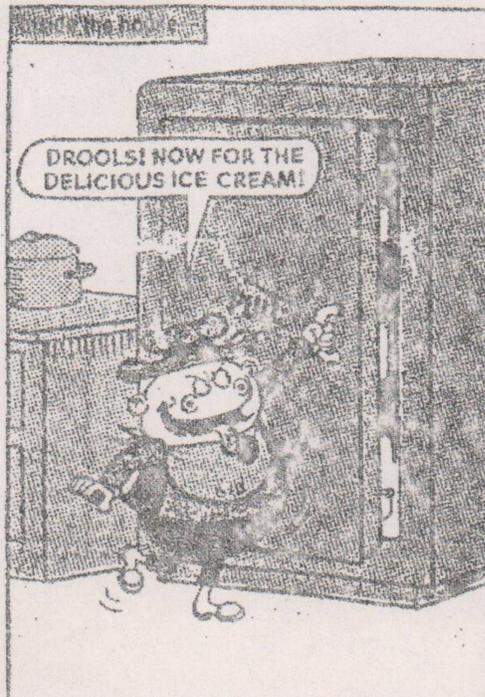
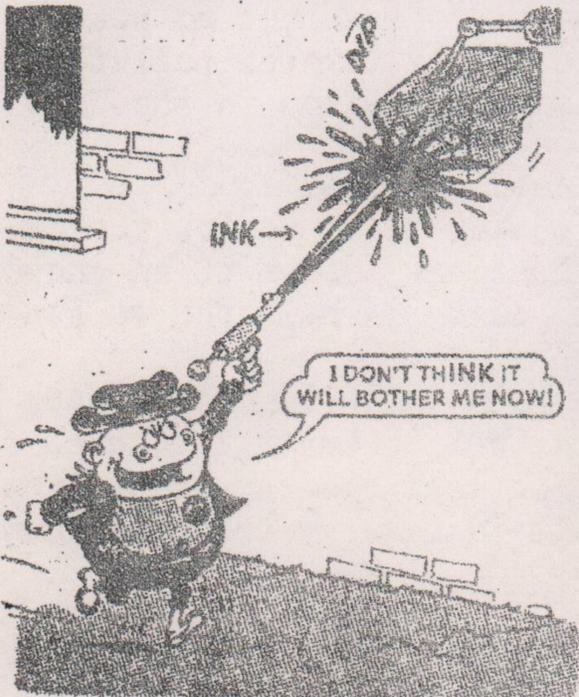
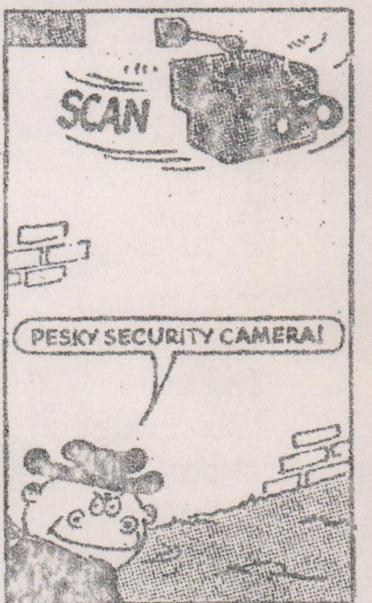
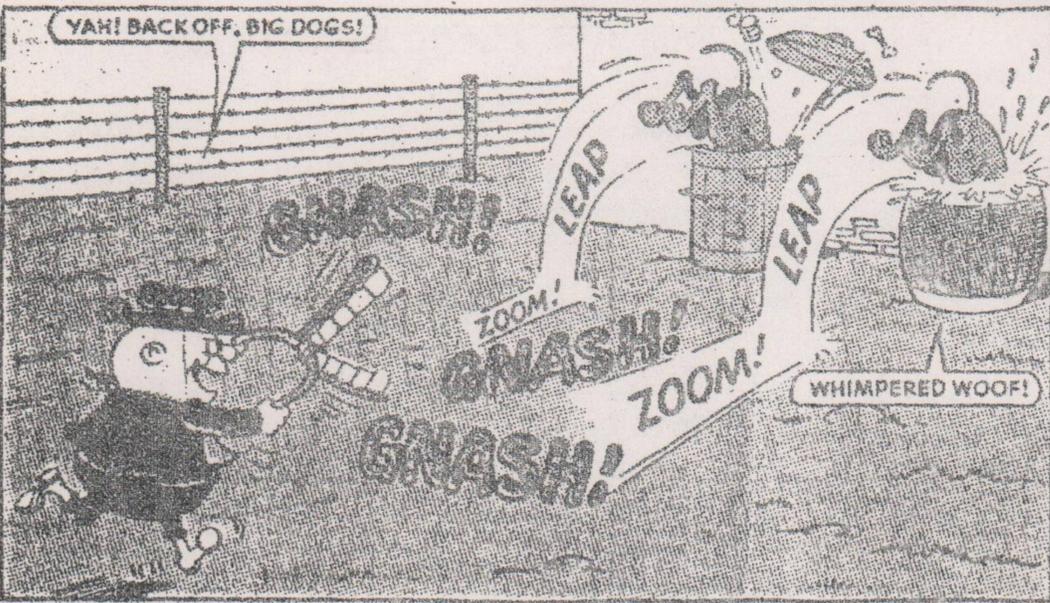
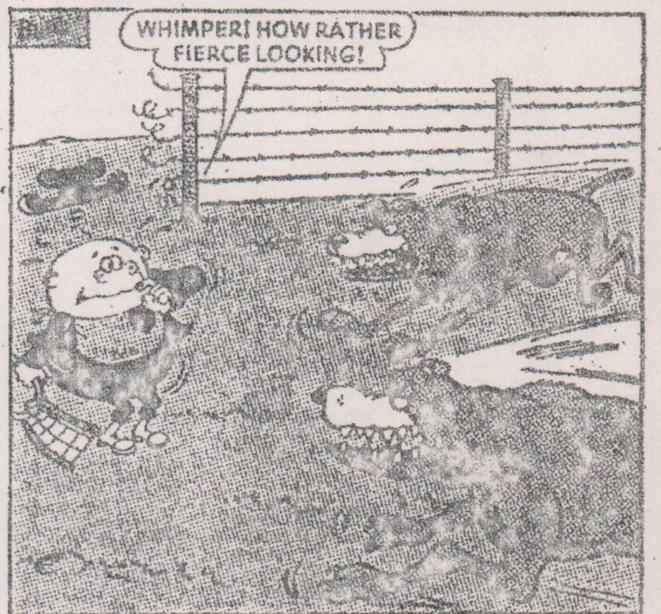
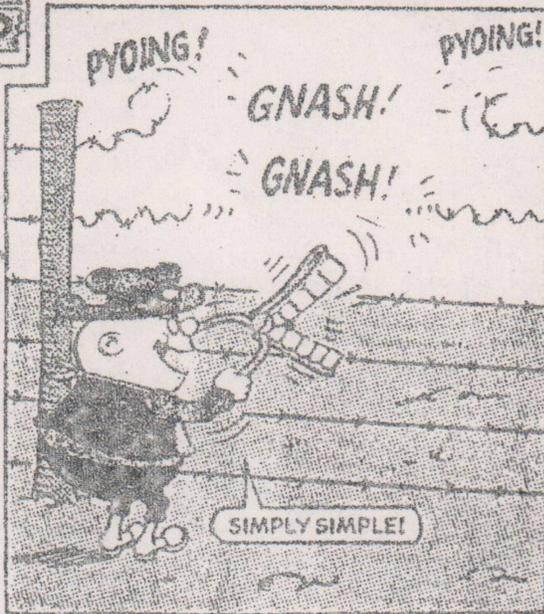
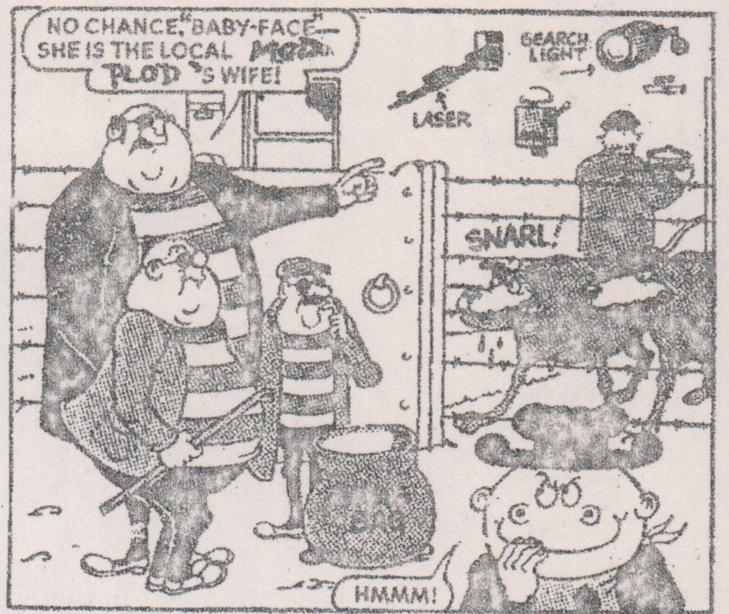
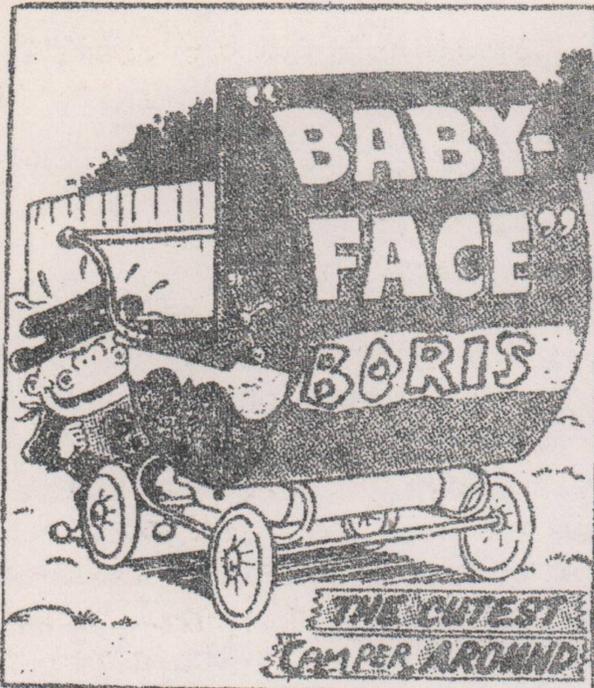
My main source of fun is hunting the rabbits round here. Haven't managed to catch one yet, which seems to cause these humans a great deal of mirth. Can't see what's so funny myself, 'cos there's nothing like it when you catch a whiff of rabbit and run as fast as you can through the bracken and trees, and then you just catch sight of its wee white tail and your mouth's watering, and I get so excited, I start barking, and all of a sudden it disappears...

I go along to the base regularly of a night with the campers to say hello to the Mod Plods, but they keep booting me out of the base. Funny people, I just pop in to look for discarded fish suppers... Did my first peace action at Coulport when I was a young pup - left a wee message of protest outside the main gates...

Unfortunately, when I was younger, before I knew any better, I sneaked through the gate onto the road and got knocked down. My left front paw's never been quite right since and sometimes it gives me quite a lot of gip. The vet told me it was because some of the nerves got ripped so the feeling in that pad is really bad, and whenever I cut it (I'm always cutting it) I keep licking and chewing it till it goes septic. It's bad again now, and I don't really want to get ANOTHER load of antibiotics 'cos they stop being effective after a while. I'm taking doggy garlic capsules and my mum puts comfrey ointment on my paw, but if there are any alternative vets out there, I'd be really pleased to hear from you.

In peace, animal liberation and Wilson's dog meal,  
Pontius the Peace Puppy

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NUKEWATCH COMES TO FASLANE!

Sam and Batch from Nuke Watch USA arrived in the middle of a hectic Friday evening in June. That did not deter them from getting everyone's attention as they told us all about what they'd been doing in America. The H-bomb trucks they were involved in following, publicising and taking non-violent action against seem very similar to the Polaris convoy, and we learnt a lot from each other. It was very exciting to meet some American peace activists!

Nuke Watch people follow the unmarked trucks across America with banners on their cars saying "Warning: H-bomb trucks ahead". The trucks are unmarked and the Government wants to keep their existence and routes a secret, but it's no secret now as there is a nation wide network of people who hold vigils by the roadside as the trucks pass by. Nuke Watch has a very good co-operative relationship with the police, except in Texas.

The H-bomb trucks travel between Pantex nuclear weapons assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas; Y12 nuclear weapons plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the plutonium factory at Rocky Flats, and military bases.

On their way to Faslane, Sam, Batch and Steve from Cruisewatch spotted the Polaris convoy in a lay by at Beattock. They stopped and photographed it - typical American tourists??? The police told them to stop "because it was worrying the soldiers". Sam and Batch said "We understand from the newspapers that these trucks carry nuclear bombs" When asked, the police said there was no law to stop anyone photographing the convoy on the public highway. Yet William has been arrested twice for photographing the Polaris convoy on the road here.

Nuke Watch's address is: 315 West Gorham St., Madison, Wisconsin, 53703, USA.

PROBE INTERNATIONAL TAPES*****
Have compiled a benefit tape for Faslane Peace Camp, featuring Political Asylum, Ramble and Disturbance from Fear. It is available from 77, Solstice Rise, Amesbury, Wiltshire, for £1.50, 50p of which goes to Faslane Peace Camp. Send a SAE.

JUST A MUDDLE

Pitter, patter against the pane,
Violent sounds of hardened rain,
Silent voices, muffled cries
Who's there?
No replies.
Purple sky weeps for life
But barren is the earth,
Ragged men hide and huddle
Hidden faces, just a muddle.

Ghostly shadows, the fallen lie
Under an eternal twilight sky,
Decaying corpses, stifling smells,
Rotting nature, earthly hell
Stunted children haunt the streets
Their only hope some morsel
Left behind by maddened dogs
White eyed with wasted muscle
The once crowded streets devoid of soul,
The army's toy extracts its toll,
Precious life now cheap
The grim one starts to reap
Pity those who did survive
The holocaust of '85.

(Stephen Sludden, Nancy MacLeod and Colin Simpson).

THE BLUE DEATH ASBESTOS

Mama tell me why I have to suffer
My lungs racked by hot searing pain
Condemned to death by some faithless
exploiter
Who poisoned our beautiful glen.

When I asked why the blue death came on us
Nobody cares to recall
Teachers, Doctors and Clerics
Shamefacedly turn to the wall.

Will it always be like this, Mama?
Will the blue death not go away?
Will the air be forever polluted
From the Solway Firth to the Tay?

Mama I need my injection
I have spoken too much for the day
Your silence is enough of an answer
The blue death is here for to stay.

Hold my hand while I go to sleep, Mama
And pray that to death I succumb
For I fear that one day the injection
Will fail to make my body feel numb.

(Tony Docherty).

BLOCKADE
 SEPT. ☺ FASLANE
 16TH ☺ 1985



Drawing by Ruth.

CHERISH THE WORLD

Our world is so precious
 It's our cyster, our shell
 Yet the shell may be broken
 And turned into a hell
 A hell in which we must strive to survive
 To learn to love to stay alive!
 Alive in a world which is dominated by fear
 Homosexuals still love
 But they're branded as queer
 Queer to a society without feeling just guilt
 If you ask for my opinion
 The world needs a tilt
 A tilt into the right direction
 The arrow points to peace
 The politicians and arms dealers
 Are what we must cease
 Cease to exist on this planet of ours
 The junkies of this world are counting the
 hours
 They consider our struggle to be one of bad
 taste
 We've got no time to lose
 And no time to waste
 We must unite today, tomorrow or whenever
 We must be as one
 And fight back together!

EGOR '85

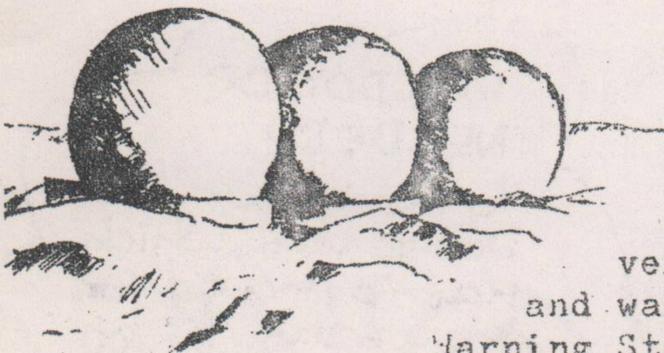
VAN DOCTOR
 NEEDED!
 To mend our
 Dodge van, which
 hasn't moved for
 3 months. If you
 can help, please
 contact us now.
 Thanks!

HOW I CAME TO FASLANE

Yahoo! I'd just left school and was free from the teacher's oppression and governing ways for disobedience forever! Freedom, it's really quite a nice word, don't you think? Ah but I was only free from school and now it's time to play a different game, a game of how to survive in a world based on fear, hate and a little love here and there.

I'd spent a lot of time at Boscombe Down Peace Camp during my last year at school. I got suspended from school for not wearing uniform. When I left school I told my mum my feelings towards not working etc. and instead being with my friends. To my surprise she understood! A few days later Boris from Faslane said come and visit, right, I said and a few days later after looking up the route in the library, I set off from Wiltshire at 5am. By midday I was in London. As I tucked into my vegan sandwiches a car pulled up. I was in Helensburgh by 10pm but I had to get a taxi for the last 5 miles - what a rip off! I climbed out of the taxi and a great sigh of relief came over me, and I wandered into the camp. I heard music coming from the black bus so I went in, to my surprise there was Shaun, an old chum from Boscombe. At the other end of the camp some people sat around a fire. Not knowing anyone I just sat down and listened... that night 2 people were arrested for protecting a caravan from police so everyone was in scummy spirits. I asked where Boris was and they said he was asleep, so I crashed out for the night and woke up after 13 hours solid kip and got to know everyone. Now I'm living here contented as can be with loads of amazing friends!

Egor. XXX



FYLINGDALES - MENWITH WALK

This summer, from August 5th - 26th the annual Moorland Peace Camp will be venturing off its grass verge and walking from Fylingdales Early Warning Station to Menwith Hill spy base, via Easingwold Civil defence college and RAF Leeming, earmarked for the Tornado. People are invited to share our journey for a day, a week, the entire walk - all support in person or donations is very welcome.

Contacts: Debbie, Woodside Cottages, Tunstall, Richmond, North Yorkshire Richmond 818122
Nina, Harrogate 867210

Missiles cause new fear

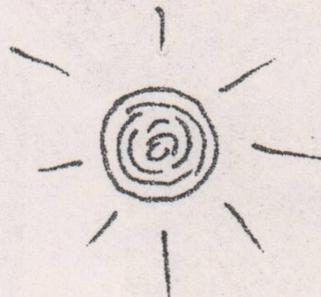
STOCKHOLM: The deployment of sea-launched cruise missiles was the most significant development in nuclear arms in 1984, the Stockholm-based International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said yesterday.

"The deployment of sea-launched cruise-missiles represents a formidable new step in the deployment of nuclear weapons around the world," the Sipri director, Mr. Frank Blackaby, told a news conference marking the publication of the independent institute's yearbook.

"It attracted little attention... but was probably the most significant development of 1984," he said.

The US navy began deploying Tomahawk nuclear-armed cruise missiles for launch from ships and submarines in June last year and the Soviet Union later completed flight-testing of its similar SS-21 missile.

THE Belgian Defence Minister, Mr Freddy Vreven, wants Belgium to buy the French Mistral surface-to-air missile rather than the US Stinger missile for its short-range air defence needs, officials said in Brussels yesterday.—Reuter.



Mr Blackaby said that Washington plans to produce 4,000 of the new missiles, about a quarter of which will be nuclear-armed.

He said deployment of the new missiles close to enemy coasts would reduce warning time of attacks and increase dependence on computer reaction to warnings, particularly because of the missiles' so-called "stealth" technology which makes detection difficult.

He said other dangerous developments in 1984 included an increase in the number of land and sea platforms from which nuclear weapons could be launched and a continuing increase in the accuracy of missiles.

A Soviet scientist said yesterday that recent Soviet studies showed that 2.5 billion people would be killed around the world if a nuclear war broke out.

Professor Leonid Ilyn, vice-president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, told a news conference in Vienna that the result of Soviet studies were similar to Western findings.

Reuter. Guardian 19/6/85



AN EGO TRIP

It was an unusual Friday back in April '82. I was going on leave, but the dockyard's leave (Easter) had been cancelled. Something to do with some little islands called the Falklands. I had never heard of them before but they were to make a large impact on my life.

During my leave I went to N. Ireland to visit my sister. Lo and behold what should arrive but a telegram 'requesting' me to go to Devonport.

On arrival at Devonport I was told there were two ships that needed 'staffing', the Minerva was one of them, it was sailing on 10th May: destination The Falklands.

The day we left I think half the Dockyard turned out to see us off. It was a horrible feeling, leaving and knowing we may never return.

The voyage down was terrifying as we were virtually going full out as the Captain did not want to miss out on any of the 'Glory' (Gory).

The Islands themselves had an exclusion zone of 200 miles, so if any Argentinian aircraft or ship came within the boundaries it was shot down (obliterated). The Hermes and the Invincible were kept out of range of the Etondas and Mirage, but sent up Harriers to take them out and proved vital for 'us'. I was a First-Aider and was compelled to carry morphine (I had to sign for it in case any time I felt depressed it would ward me off using it). There were three air states, white (no enemy about), yellow (probable enemy aircraft about) and red (aircraft about and a probable attack).

Minerva was very lucky because being in 'bomb alley' we were more likely to get hit, but fate was on our side; basically if we relieved a ship late it would get hit, or if we relieved early the ship would be hit. It was trying on one's nerves.

If a ship was hit we were told immediately but back home families weren't told for days as we later found out.

Hostilities ended in June 1982 but patrolling went on until we could be relieved (The Falklands was now a new money wasting patrol-ing area.) At last we could get 'regular' mail. The order to head back to UK seemed years arriving, parties were planned to celebrate (well at that stage any little reason meant a party). The sun sweltered down on us the day we arrived in Plymouth Sound, the order of the day was procedure Alpha, ie everyone dressed in no.1 uniforms.

Plymouth Hoe had hundreds of people lined up cheering us in. Two other ships came back with us. The sight of Plymouth brought tears to my eyes and I know I wasn't the only one. After clearing customs later families were allowed on board. I think everyone had their folks there apart from me and what a bad feeling that was.

Don't remember much about the next few days I was so pissed.

Back home reunions were acceptable, rather subdued as the last few months hadn't sunk in.

That was three years ago. My attitudes have now changed. Probably because I have been unemployed for a year. That year has given me the time to look at things more 'carefully'.

Mrs. Thatcher used the Falklands as an election campaign as the country turned 'stupidly' patriotic.

Have you ever seen the Islands, they are desolate. Millions of £'s are spent each year defending them and the Government will probably give them back to the Argentinians; just like Malta, Hong Kong, Gibraltar: the list is endless.

Nowadays I spend a lot of time with the Faslane Peace Campers. I got involved with them when someone wrote to them on my behalf in connection with work I could do (Graphic Art). The day after I met them, some of the campers mentioned that they were going to Stonehenge. Saturday about midnight the bus left, Sunday morning the bus broke down. Eventually Saturday 1st June arrived and as you probably saw reports about the Stonehenge 'riots' on the TV I'll not dwell on it. It could be said I was thrown in at the deep end, but it was my own choice and if I had to do it again I would.

The Faslane Peace Campers are not a bit like they are portrayed in the media ie. dirty, unfriendly, stupid, I could go on but it's pointless as I now know differently.

On Saturday I'm off to Molesworth for a week at one of the summer work camps so that will be more to tell you later on. T.



WE NEED...

COMMITTED PEACE ACTIVISTS * VISITORS * PEOPLE TO MEND OUR VAN * MONEY * TARPAULINS
HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC * DUPLICATING PAPER * PAINT * PAINTBRUSHES * FIREWOOD * BEDDING
CANDLES * BICYCLES * CB RADIOS **

... YOU CAN HELP

VISITORS are always welcome for any length of time. We usually have bed space or at least floor space in a caravan. It's the best way to get to know the camp, and a cheerful visitor can make all the difference when we are feeling isolated or unloved.

TO GET TO THE CAMP take the A814 out of Glasgow and keep on it through Dumbarton and Helensburgh. About 5 miles past Helensburgh you come to the camp. There are trains from Glasgow Queen St. Low Level to Helensburgh. Come out of station, turn right and the 134 bus for Garelohead leaves from the second road on the right at 10 mins past the hour and stops outside the camp.

You can leave messages for the camp with Iain MacDonald, tel Hm 820719. REASONABLE HOURS ONLY PLEASE.

It is often quicker to write: FASLANE PEACE CAMP, SHANDON, HELENSBURGH, DUNBARTONSHIRE, SCOTLAND.



We are willing to talk to anyone, anywhere, anytime about the Peace Camp, Trident, the Bases, the Convoy and the Rainbow Campaign.

We have a slide show and exhibitions.

So write to the camp and invite us along to one of your meetings or to join you with a stall at local events!